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THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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CONTENTS.

ECCLESIASTICAL:—	
The Rage for Union	301
Dissenting Conference on the Maynooth Bill....	301
Anti-Maynooth Confer- ence	302
Public Breakfast of Dis- senting Deputies	303
The Anti-Maynooth Agi- tation.....	304
British Anti-state-church Association: Meeting of the Council—Mis- cellaneous	305
POSTSCRIPT.....	307
POLITICAL ARTICLES:—	
Summary.....	308
A Speck in the Horizon.	308
IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT:—	
Admission to Scotch Uni- versities—Inclosure of	
Waste Lands—May- nooth Endowment bill Private Committees— Irish Members—The Maynooth Bill—Reli- gious Endowments— Supply—Miscellaneous —House of Lords....	309
FOREIGN NEWS:—	
America—France—India and China—Miscellany	312
METROPOLITAN	313
PROVINCIAL	313
Awful Catastrophe at Yarmouth	313
IRELAND	314
SCOTLAND	314
MARRIAGES AND DEATHS	314
TRADE AND COMMERCE ..	315
ADVERTISEMENTS.....	315

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE RAGE FOR UNION.

WONDERFUL is the passion in some minds for what they are pleased to regard as the practical advantages of union—altogether incredible the quantity of dirt they will eat, if only allowed, as a reward of their self-denial, to walk arm-in-arm with respectability. No sacrifice is too costly—no humiliation too low for them. Oh! the Christian forbearance which they deem it incumbent upon them to exercise towards those whose eyesight is weak and whose knees tremble—the patience with which they will listen, by the hour together, to the outpourings of a bigotry they would blush to be taxed with—the generosity with which they will consent to bury their own principles “a hundred fathoms deep”—the zeal they will display in aiding anybody, by any means, courteous or discourteous, in stopping the unlicensed tongue which may presume to give articulate expression to the truth which it dare not, and cannot, suppress! Verily, this is emphatically the age of cant, if ever there was one; and of all the driveling and contemptible cant which froths upon the surface of this world, that which is evermore crying up the virtues of union, is about the worst.

Our readers will be aware that an Anti-Maynooth Conference was held in the metropolis last week—that it was very numerously attended—and that its proceedings were based upon the single ground of concern for the maintenance of Protestantism. We have reason to believe that dissenters, in the strict acceptance of the term, constituted but a small minority of the assembly—that several of them consented to act as delegates, solely on an understanding, previously agreed upon, that the free utterance of their sentiments would be allowed them—that these latter gentlemen, having ascertained by a practical test, that if they remained in the ill-assorted company in which they found themselves, they must forego their liberty of speech, retired, and published a protest against the wrong done to themselves and to the principles they wished to avow but were precluded—and that, nevertheless, in their rage for union, a much larger number of influential nonconformists continued to act with the conference until the close of its sittings. Now, let us try to estimate the practical advantages which this combination of parties has produced.

Before we do so, however, it may be well to guard ourselves against the possibility of being misunderstood. We have no intention whatever of questioning the right of men, holding state-church principles, to offer a determined opposition to this measure, on any ground they deem most suitable. Whilst, to some minds, every argument employed by such men to demonstrate the injustice involved in the national endowment of error might appear to cut both ways, and to injure those who handled the weapon not less than those against whom it was wielded; and, whilst it is perfectly competent to them, if such be the peculiarity of their minds, to urge that what they systematically practise upon others becomes a foul oppression when practised on themselves—we see no reason for refusing to them the fullest “liberty of prophesying”—we should have deprecated any interference with their proceedings—we should have done nothing whatever to lessen the weight of their influence. The case, however, is altered,

when a professed junction of the friends and the foes of state endowments of religion is effected—and when, as the immediate result of it, certain reports and proceedings go forth to the world, as things in which the two uniting parties are thoroughly agreed. Then it becomes every earnest dissenter to record his protest against the solemn misrepresentation both of his principles and policy.

Well! what has this wonderful union of churchmen with dissenters in the Anti-Maynooth Conference done for us? What are the precious fruits of it? What, but a loud, vehement, and, so far as the uninitiated could judge, senseless, outcry against Popery? We, at all events, shall not be suspected of having any sympathy with that theological system which hands over individual conscience to an usurping priesthood, whether Roman or Anglican—but really we demur to the wisdom of simply bawling in chorus against an evil, however great, without once adverting to its causes or its cure. “No Popery!” shouted the conference—“No Popery!” vociferated as lustily the wise men of dissent. Why, have they not, in every snug and comfortable way, maintained that the obstinate tenacity of Popery in Ireland is directly to be ascribed to the existence in that island of a Protestant establishment? Must they not have felt, as their voices blended so sweetly with those of their state-church brethren, that could their companions but be made to acquiesce in the policy of abandoning the principle of state endowments, there would have been no necessity whatever for raising the cry? Whence comes the measure which has created all this stir? It owes its birth to the determination of our statesmen to uphold, at all hazards, the Irish church. The national soreness which the Maynooth bill was designed to heal, was produced, and is kept incurable, by that monster grievance. And it is deemed a fitting exhibition to our Irish fellow-countrymen, of the genius and generosity of protestant dissent, to suppress our indignation at the wrong inflicted upon them, merely for the pleasure of having one deafening howl against their form of faith and worship, in concert with the very parties who perpetrate the wrong. This is a likely way, to be sure, to conciliate good-will for Protestantism on the other side of the channel—almost as efficient as the religious policy which silently acquiesced in opening a door for the gospel in China, by plunder, fire, and massacre. We should think the Irish Evangelical Society will find Roman Catholicism marvelously disposed to yield to its efforts after this exhibition of Christian union.

It is to be noted, moreover, that if this united demonstration against Popery were designed to comprehend within it the whole action of nonconformists in opposition to the bill, the opportunity providentially placed within their reach for agitating their principles with unprecedented effect would be worse than thrown away. Silence is not the worst part of the arrangement—it is silence in suspicious company. It may be all very well for dissenters to unite with churchmen in matters which touch not the ecclesiastical polity of either party. But can this be affirmed of the Maynooth bill? Is it not plainly, avowedly, boastfully, an extension of the establishment principle? Is it not, on the face of it, a declaration of war against the living power of voluntarism? And is it on such a question that the friends of the latter are to pocket the affront put upon their own system, and exhibit themselves in public and ostentatious alliance with the former? How, if this anomaly is to be justified—how can the dissenters reasonably complain of being misunderstood? When Mr Sheil and Mr Ward, in parliament, and Mr O’Connell out of it, denounce them as fanatical bigots, whence is the true answer to the calumny to be supplied? Had they sought for it in the conference, what would they have found? Anything to rectify the mistake, or to rebuke the slander? Not a word. They would not have discovered in the records of proceedings, a single protest against state endowments, as such—not a syllable against the iniquity of fastening a Protestant establishment as a millstone about the necks of a Catholic population—but they would have seen the very men whose principles bound them to condemn these things, bandying compliments with those who actively promote them, and all for the purpose of having a fling against Popery.

We complain of our legislators for mistaking their proper province. We tell them that they

are not the constituted judges of truth and error. We denounce their presumption for meddling with questions which individual conscience is responsible for resolving. How are they to understand us, when we go with state-churchmen before them, and argue the comparative theological merits of Protestantism and Popery? Into what a nice mess of inconsistency and self-contradiction will this passion for union betray us!

But we rejoice to know that the nonconformists of this country will not consent any longer to have their principles decently buried by a few busy leaders. Another conference has been summoned—a dissenting conference—a conference in which free discussion will be encouraged, not suppressed. It is fixed for the 20th instant, and will be held in London. If any word of ours could prevail upon the friends of true religious liberty to be well represented in that assembly, that word should not be wanting. We know how large a sacrifice the sending of delegates from a distance always requires; but we devoutly trust that, in this critical hour, the sacrifice will be cheerfully made. Let none fail. Promptitude, energy, self-denial, ought now to characterise all our movements. The object is not to cast reproach upon the conference of last week—not to break up any existing machinery; but it is, to offer to the legislature and to the world a fair version of the sentiments of the nonconforming body, on the ecclesiastical policy of government—to make ourselves and our views intelligible to the dullest mind—if possible, to defeat the government on sound and consistent principles—if not, to make defeat itself contribute to their advancement.

DISSENTING CONFERENCE ON THE MAYNOOTH BILL.

A LARGE and influential meeting of dissenting deputies to the Conference held last week, on the question of the Maynooth College bill, and of other gentlemen, was convened on Friday last, in the Salters’ Hall chapel. The meeting was called to consider whether it would not be advisable that the nonconformists, who so strenuously oppose the endowment of Maynooth college from the national resources, should inform both parliament and the public of the real grounds on which their opposition is based; and whether the convening of a Conference of the friends of religious freedom throughout all parts of the United Kingdom, would not be the most effectual mode of accomplishing that desirable end? Dr Cox was requested to preside.

The proceedings were opened by Mr S. GREEN, baptist minister, who explained the object of the meeting, and detailed the facts relative to the secession of several members of the Crown and Anchor Conference. He introduced a series of resolutions, which he had drawn up of his own accord; one of them condemning the violation of freedom of discussion at the Anti-Maynooth Conference. They were, however, spontaneously withdrawn at a subsequent period; the general opinion of the meeting being, that whatever future steps were taken should have no reference to past proceedings, or else they would introduce a topic of disunion. Several ministers and gentlemen addressed the meeting. Among them were Mr Mursell, of Leicester; Dr Massie, and Dr Halley, of Manchester; Mr C. Childs, of Bungay; Mr Stephens, of Newport; Mr Alexander, of Norwich; Mr Bayley, of Sheffield; Dr Price, Mr Carlile, Mr Hinton, Mr Burnet, Dr Morison, Dr Campbell, and Mr Eckett, of London; Mr Campbell, and Mr Mac-laren, of Edinburgh; and Mr Bigwood, of Exeter. All the speakers concurred in the necessity of some further measures being taken in order to make known dissenting objections to the Maynooth bill, and combine nonconformists in their opposition to the measure, and many gentlemen from the country promised a cordial support from their several districts. Eventually the following resolution was carried with only one dissentient:—

“That, in the judgment of the meeting, it is a matter of high importance that the principles on which nonconformists object to the proposed endowment of Maynooth college should be clearly and distinctly understood by both parliament and the public; and that, for this purpose, it is expedient to convene a conference of the friends of religious freedom, to adopt measures to carry on a united and consistent opposition to the bill now before parliament, relative to the endowment of Maynooth college from the national resources, and to all other state endowments of any system of religious instruction and worship.”

The following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, were then appointed a committee,

with the view of immediately carrying out this resolution:—Drs Cox, Campbell, Jenkyn, Morison, Halley, Price; Messrs Burnet, Bayley, Carlile, Campbell and Robertson (of Edinburgh), Alexander (of Norwich), Eckett, Stevenson, Jones (Plymouth), Green; and J. Conder, J. Brown, J. M. Hare, E. Miall, J. Childs, Esqrs. Mr Carlile was requested to act as secretary *pro tem*.

The committee were instructed to co-operate, as far as might be found practicable, with the deputies of the Three Denominations; and to convene the conference not later than the 20th inst, Monday, the 19th being fixed for the discussion on the third reading of the Maynooth bill. A feeling of cordial unanimity pervaded the meeting; and it is hoped that, among the benefits arising from this important movement, it will tend thoroughly to cement a union among all classes of enlightened nonconformists in conducting a steady, persevering, and consistent opposition to all state endowments for the maintenance of religious forms. The committee have already met, and entered on their work with energy and zeal. It will be seen that Dr Cox, Mr Mursell of Leicester, and Mr Bayley of Sheffield, are the secretaries of the committee.

THE ANTI-MAYNOOTH CONFERENCE.

Wednesday.

In the postscript of our last number we gave a slight sketch of a portion of the morning's proceedings of the Conference, which commenced its sittings at the Crown and Anchor, on Wednesday morning. We now resume our sketch, for we have not room for a methodical report. The number of delegates present was about 800, the hall being entirely full. The Chairman, Sir Culling Eardley Smith, said, that their object was to devise plans by which the endowment of Popery might be prevented; and in contending against the endowment of Popery, in the name of their common Saviour, he hoped that they would not on this occasion go into the question of religious establishments; as on this occasion neither the churchman nor the advocate of the voluntary system could be suspected of departing from his own religious or conscientious grounds in opposing the endowment to Maynooth. He read a correspondence in which, in the name of the Central Anti-Maynooth committee, he had asked Sir Robert Peel to grant an interview with the delegates on the following day. Sir Robert Peel declined the proposed interview on the subject of the Maynooth endowment; adding:—

That subject has undergone the consideration of the House of Commons during ten nights of debate; and Sir Robert Peel feels it to be wholly out of his power, consistently with the proper discharge of the official duties he has to perform, to discuss in personal conference out of parliament the merits of measures of general public, not especially affecting particular or local interests.

In consequence of that letter, the Committee had passed a resolution, expressing regret and surprise at Sir Robert Peel's refusal. The meeting proceeded to hear the reports of several delegates from the provincial towns, from Wales, Scotland, and from Ireland (Archdeacon Magee and Mr Tresham Gregg); all of whom declared the feeling against the grant to be unanimous, or "nearly universal." Among those who addressed the Conference in the morning were Messrs Hugh McNeile, H. Stowell, Dr Marsh, of Leamington, and Mr Bickersteth, of Watton, clergymen; Dr Halley and Dr Massie, of Manchester; Dr Raffles, of Liverpool; Mr Stephen, of Newport; and Mr Jones, of Merthyr. Most of the speeches consisted of information. Some of the clergymen, however, did not mince their no-popery sentiments. Thus, Mr Stowell, of Manchester, alluding to a recent anti-Maynooth meeting at Manchester, at which he said no fewer than forty clergymen attended, concluded by declaring that their watch-words ought to be, "No surrender," "No compromise," "No perfidy," and, in spite of the sneers of parliament and of modern infidel philosophy, their cry ought to be, "No popery" [loud cheers]. Every sentiment, basing opposition to the grant on the doctrinal errors of the Roman Catholic church, was received with great applause by the majority of the meeting. Delegates from various cities and towns were called up, many of them by name; and almost all followed in the same track. On separating, at three o'clock, p.m., it was arranged that delegates from Leicester should open the evening's sitting.

At six o'clock, after the usual preliminaries, and the re-election of Sir C. E. Smith to preside, "Leicester" was accordingly called. Mr Mursell rose. He requested first, that Sir Culling would be good enough to read a letter, addressed to the Chairman of the Conference from the body from which he (Mr M.) had received his delegation, which letter he had transmitted, in the morning, to the chair. Sir C. E. Smith took the letter from his pocket, stated it to be an expression of the views entertained by the writers on the opposition which the Conference was engaged in promoting, but declined to read it. Mr Mursell, therefore, would not speak as delegate from the town of Leicester, and proceeded to say he would address the meeting as representative from his own congregation in that town. He began to do so, adverting, in a most temperate manner, to his ground of opposing the Maynooth bill in strict conformity with the "no restriction" statement of the committee on the previous evening. The majority of the meeting, however, vociferously and discourteously refused to hear him. The Chairman, it was evident, wished to check this impatience; but, as Mr Mursell's voice was repeatedly drowned in discordant noises, he declined to speak, and was about to leave the room. Mr Stovel, Mr Green, and others then sought a hearing to their request to be allowed to place, in a proper manner, before the

chair, a protest against the conduct of the majority of the meeting towards Mr Mursell. The terms of the committee's reply to the deputation were called for and read; but the majority of the meeting, as it appeared to many, with the utmost intolerance, refused to hear anything that these or other gentlemen had to say with respect to the unseemly interruption which had occurred. They, therefore, withdrew, amidst a display of discourtesy and rudeness which would have disgraced the populace of any Papal state. About twenty gentlemen immediately assembled in the first open room they could find in the house, and, having placed the Rev. Eliezer Jones, of Plymouth, in the chair, they proceeded to draw up, and agree upon, the following declaration, as fully warranting their course:—

"Whereas the Anti-Maynooth Conference now sitting, both by circular of April 19 last, issued by the Central Committee, and by agents of the Committee sent forth into various parts of the country on their behalf, has been invited without restriction on freedom of speech as to the ground of opposition to the Maynooth Endowment bill; whereas, also, from subsequent advertisements of the Committee, doubts concerning this freedom of speech had arisen in the minds of many delegates, which doubts were entirely removed in an interview with the Committee, obtained at the instance of such doubting delegates, for the purpose of stating their doubts, and having them considered and replied to; and whereas, further, a determination to refuse this freedom of speech has been manifested this evening, with great discourtesy, by the majority of the meeting, in contradistinction from the conduct of the Chairman, no other course seems left to the gentlemen now present than to withdraw, and to offer their protest against the exclusively 'no-popery' character of the Conference, as apparent in this morning's sitting, and in the conduct of this evening's meeting, up to the moment of our withdrawal."

The further proceedings of these gentlemen, in connexion with other dissenting delegates, are recorded elsewhere.

The proceedings of the Conference at the evening sitting were similar to those of the morning. After the retirement of the seceding delegates, representatives from Birmingham (J. Roberts, J. Hull, A.M., W. Walker, and J. Stanley), from Plymouth (W. Nicholson, Nine, and Spencer), Manchester (Dr Massie, and Dr Halley), Lincoln, Louth, Bedford, the Potteries, Belfast, Norwich (J. Alexander), Grantham, Truro, Newark, and other places, addressed the meeting. Mr Travers Robinson, a London clergyman, reported, that an address to the archbishop, from the clergy of London, was in course of signature, calling on him to oppose, with the archbishops and bishops of the United Kingdom, this most destructive and abominable bill. Sir C. E. Smith stated, that the Bishops of Exeter, London, Lincoln, Chester, Winchester, and Ripon, were prepared to oppose the bill, and the Bishop of Cashel had himself met them in committee. Resolutions were passed condemning the conduct of Sir Robert Peel in refusing to receive the delegates, and directing that the deputations should wait upon the various members for their cities, boroughs, and counties, represent the state of public feeling on the subject to them, and call upon them to oppose the further progress of the measure. They were moved and seconded by Mr E. Baines, jun., Mr Blackburn, Dr Reed, and Dr Bunting. The meeting adjourned at ten o'clock, p.m.

Thursday.

The sitting was resumed at twelve o'clock; Sir C. E. Smith in the chair. He stated, amidst loud cheers, that the third reading of the Maynooth bill would not take place until the 19th inst. He trusted that, in accordance with the proceedings of Wednesday, the speakers would not go into the question of religious establishments, but confine themselves to the question of opposition to the grant.

Mr J. Colwell, of Dublin, stated that the Archbishop of Cashel had promised to go heart and hand with the Conference. Several delegates reported the result of interviews with the parliamentary representatives of the places from which they came. We give the results. Stroud—Mr Poulett Scrope had promised that he would not vote with government again on the subject; Mr Stanton would vote with government to the end. East Gloucestershire—Mr Codrington would persevere in his opposition to government; Mr Charteris, though in many respects approving of the measure, would not vote with government again. South Derbyshire—Mr Mundy and Mr Colville would oppose the bill. Derby—Mr Strutt would not oppose it, though he should forfeit his seat; Lord Duncannon had not been seen. High Wycombe—Mr Bernal Osborne had abstained from voting, would not pledge himself for the future, and would write further to the deputation. Wolverhampton—Mr Thornley's opinions could not be changed; Mr Villiers had not been seen. Cheltenham—Mr C. F. Berkeley had voted for Mr Ward's amendment, and would in future vote against the bill. Halifax—Mr Protheroe was with them; but all arguments were unavailing with Mr Charles Wood. West Yorkshire—Mr John Stuart Wortley declined to alter his conduct; Mr Denison had not been seen. Huddersfield—Mr Stansfield could not be persuaded, but seemed to think that he must resign.

Among the speakers this day were, Mr Paul, of Stroud; Mr Vevors, of Derby; Mr Geden, of Wolverhampton; Mr Brown, of Cheltenham; Mr Ewing, of Halifax, and various clergymen; the Hon. Montague Villiers, Mr Padden, of High Wycombe; and Mr Steinforth, of Pontefract. Mr Bacon, an Exeter delegate, boasted that he had been always opposed to popery, and had got up an anti-popery petition at Sidmouth, previous to the passing of the Catholic Emancipation bill.

Mr E. BAINES, jun., read a petition to parliament against the measure. The petition disavowed any national prejudice against the Irish people, in the exertions which the Conference had made to oppose the errors of popery. Having read the petition, he moved its adoption, which was seconded by Mr C.

PREST (Wesleyan), and passed, after considerable discussion.

MEETING AT EXETER HALL.

On Thursday evening, a "protestant meeting of the deputations from the country and other friends" (to use the words of the advertisement convening the assembly) was held, at Exeter hall, "to protest against the endowment of popery," by the proposed grant to Maynooth. Ladies were excluded from the meeting, which was much crowded. Besides the provincial deputations, there were on the platform many metropolitan clergymen and dissenting ministers. In the course of his speech, the chairman, Sir C. E. Smith, said:—

They felt that they had a strong refuge in the House of Lords [hear, hear]. They did not forget there were individuals in that House who officially represented the Protestant religion of this country [hear, and cheers]. The Conference came to the conclusion, that, supposing this bill should pass the House of Commons, and supposing also that it should pass the House of Lords, even by a mere formal reading, it would then be the duty of the delegates from every part of the United Kingdom, after consulting those by whom they were commissioned, to reassemble [loud and prolonged cheers], prepared to take practical steps to arouse the millions of their countrymen who opposed the bill, to petition her most gracious Majesty to dissolve the present parliament [great cheering, which continued for some moments].

Mr J. T. ROBINSON, of St Andrew's, Holborn, in a long speech complained of the notice which had been taken of him by members of the House of Commons, in consequence of a previous speech he had delivered.

What I said on that occasion, I will, upon the same spot, and with the same emphasis, reiterate [cheers]. I said that popery was "damnable idolatry" [loud and prolonged cheering].

Capt. J. E. GORDON and Mr PLUMPTRE, M.P., then addressed the meeting. While the latter gentleman was speaking, a person in the body of the hall here called for "three cheers for Sir R. Peel." A storm of hisses burst from the audience, and considerable confusion ensued. When order was in some measure restored, the Chairman said, individuals, whether Protestants, or Catholics in disguise, may take it for granted, that it is not in a meeting like this, that three cheers would be given for Sir R. Peel [this statement was received with vociferous cheering, which was continued for a considerable time].

Mr T. GUTHRIE, Free church, Edinburgh, said:—

The opponents of the bill might be in a minority in the House of Commons, but they were not in a minority in the commons ["hear, hear," and great cheering]. The member for Edinburgh (Mr Macaulay) had, in the course of the debate on this bill, talked about the braying at Exeter hall. He would venture to say that, when a dissolution of parliament took place, Mr Macaulay would think the whole country a nation of asses [great laughter]. He believed, rather than popery should be endowed, every member of the Free Church of Scotland would be prepared to root up all establishments [cheers, with some expressions of disapprobation]. He believed it would come to that soon.

The Hon. and Rev. BAPTIST NOEL, in an eloquent speech, proclaimed that he was not prepared to surrender the supremacy of divine truth for any advantages.

Though the evils which were sometimes predicted if this measure were refused, were as real as he believed them to be chimerical, or were they as near as he believed them to be in fact distant; if the apprehended danger of war were a reality, if the United States were combined with France to attack our shores, and Ireland were diseased and ready to make common cause with the enemy—which he did not believe she would [hear, hear]—he would rather meet the horrors of revolution, or yield to the overwhelming force of foreign foes, or personally meet the bayonet of the enemy, and let them march over his dead body, than surrender this truth [great cheering]. The clergy of the Protestant church, rather than see falsehood and delusion raised to a level with themselves, would with one voice declare that they would trust, as the Free Church of Scotland had done, to the native energies of truth, and go forth, as David had done, to meet the Philistines [cheering].

The remaining speakers included Mr Osborne, of Manchester (Wesleyan); Mr Stephen, of Newport (Baptist); Mr Gregg, of Dublin; Dr Halley, and Mr Baines, and Mr Scales, of Leeds. Resolutions were passed against the grant, but disclaiming hostility to the Roman Catholics; authorising the Central Committee to arrange a "great Protestant confederacy" throughout the world; and directing a subscription to defray expenses.

Friday.

When the Conference re-assembled at 12 o'clock this day, there were not above 50 delegates present. At no period of the sitting did the number exceed 150.

The reports of interviews with M.P.s were continued. The following had signified their adhesion—Mr Gisborne, Nottingham; Mr J. R. Collett, Lincoln; Mr Bannerman, Aberdeen; Mr Octavius Duncombe, North Yorkshire; all the members for Cheshire except Mr Legh; Mr Twizell Wawn, South Shields, would abstain from voting; there had been no success with Mr Legh; Sir John Hobhouse, Nottingham; Mr Hume, Montrose; Mr F. T. Baring, Portsmouth; Lord George Bentinck, Lynn; Lord Jocelyn, Lynn; Lord Ebrington, Plymouth; Mr Cayley, North Yorkshire; Lord Dalmeny, Stirling; or any of the members for North Staffordshire; while Mr Roebuck and Lord Duncan (Bath) were given up as hopeless.

The principal speakers were Mr Leashman, of Ayrshire (Baptist); Mr Crichton, of Arbroath; Mr Maxwell (Wesleyan) of Cambridge; Mr Peake, of Abergavenny; Samuel Gill, Esq., of North Cheshire; Mr Woolmer (Wesleyan), of Portsmouth; Sir W. Seaton, of Aberdeen; Mr Stewart, of Stirling; Mr Wigner, of Lynn; and Dr Massie, of Manchester.

Deputations subsequently addressed the meeting

from Wolverhampton, Lincoln, Macclesfield, Bedford, Burnley, Falmouth, Bath, North Yorkshire, South Lincolnshire, Stranraer, Bradford, Weymouth, and other places.

It was stated by Dr Reed that 7,240 petitions, signed by 918,726 persons, had been presented against that measure up to the 25th of April.

Resolutions were then proposed and adopted, recommending that meetings should be held by the various deputations on their return, and that it was very desirable that Sunday, the 18th, should be appointed as a day for special prayer.

Saturday.

The fourth and last meeting of the Conference was held this afternoon in the small room of the Crown and Anchor. The chairman said there were several questions yet to be brought forward which would be laid before an aggregate meeting, who would entrust them to sub-committees. An address to Ireland, a plan for a protestant union, and the publication of a report of the proceedings of the Conference, of which a short-hand note had been taken, were the most prominent of those questions. The chairman then referred to the formal withdrawal from the Conference of some of the delegates on the occasion of the evening sitting on Wednesday last. A portion of the public press opposed to them was, he said, endeavouring to make the most of that circumstance. Articles had appeared in the "liberal" *Morning Chronicle*, representing the Conference as undergoing a serious schism [laughter]; but so far from its being a schism, it only served to remind him of the fable of the fly apologising to the ox for its weight; to which the ox replied that he really had not felt it [cheers]. Their fly, instead of weighing them down, had absolutely flown off [a laugh]; and although he regretted that any number of gentlemen, however few, should have felt it their duty to withdraw, the secession, in this instance, could not possibly do them the slightest injury [hear, hear]. He had that morning received a letter on the subject, which he would read to the meeting:—

"Dear Sir Culling—In returning to you the enclosed ticket, requesting your committee to be good enough to take my name out of the list of delegates meeting in your present Anti-Maynooth Conference, I beg to say a few words:—

"1. There are many reasons, in my opinion very strong ones, why dissenters should not be mixed up with an exclusively theological (if so I may call it without offence) opposition to the Maynooth bill before the House of Commons. I need not state those reasons now. To my mind they have always appeared strong enough to require our abstaining from all connexion with the Conference.

"2. From the terms of the promise made to myself, and other gentlemen, who waited on your committee on Tuesday evening last, I hoped, in common with many of my brethren, that 'freedom of speech' would have been allowed to all delegates, and that dissenters would be able, if they joined you, to infuse some additional element to that which, evidently enough, many gentlemen were anxious to have exclusively pervading the assembly. I fancied we should have found room for at least a clear acknowledgment of the civil and religious rights of our long oppressed Roman Catholic fellow-subjects in Ireland, and perhaps for some expression of our views of the great injustice and wrong, if not of all endowed churches, of the Protestant church of Ireland.

"3. You, Sir Culling, seemed anxious, and, indeed, repeatedly manifested your anxiety, to secure to my friends and to myself a fair hearing in the sitting of Wednesday evening; but though, with only one exception, as far as I observed (that of Mr Prest), the gentlemen who sat around you on that occasion, and whom I and my friends had met on the preceding evening, did not resist your impartial and promised conduct towards us, it was abundantly evident that even you, Sir Culling, could not control the meeting in this matter. Your decisions were not listened to by the large majority of the delegates present. . . . I cannot in these circumstances, Sir Culling, retain my place in your Conference, nor have my name mixed up with its proceedings. At the same time allow me to assure you, I complain of nothing in you. You have my thanks, and

"I am, Sir Culling, Yours very faithfully,
SAMUEL GREEN."

The CHAIRMAN then proceeded to justify the course which the Conference had pursued. It was his conviction that no gentleman had been precluded from saying anything which he had a right to expect, from the public documents of that body, he would be permitted to say [hear, hear]; and as he (Sir C. Smith) could not allow himself to be complimented at the expense of those over whom he was placed, he felt called upon also to observe that between them there had been the most perfect accordance of feeling upon the subject [cheers]. So long as those gentlemen who had withdrawn kept within the prescribed bounds, so long were they permitted to proceed; but on exceeding those bounds, they were called to order—a call to which he (Sir C. Smith) responded, by concurring in the propriety of it [hear, hear]. He then read a long congratulatory letter from Dr Chalmers, highly approving of the object of the Conference, and containing various suggestions, among which was the following:—

"Let each of the great Protestant communions, both in Scotland and England, have but such a treasury and such an organisation; and, call this an endowment or not, it will be at least an instrumentality by which possession might be taken of the great bulk and body of the people, and the national power, now put forth in the support of a degrading superstition, be effectually counteracted by the national will now aroused, and, shortly, I trust, to be put forth in the like support of a scriptural and enlightened faith."

Mr CULLEN, Congregational minister of Leith, stated that he greatly regretted that any had left the Conference, on the ground that they had not had an opportunity to advocate the voluntary principle. Though well known as a zealous friend to that principle, he had no sympathy with those who had taken that step. A resolution, thanking the members of the House of Commons who voted against the Maynooth bill, was then carried. Various gentlemen then referred to the indignation of the inhabitants of the districts from which they came against the unprincipled measure of the Premier. Mr J. BATEMAN, from Congleton in Cheshire, said that the indignation of its inhabitants at the unconstitutional attempt of our unprincipled Minister to force his popish measures on a Protestant people knew no bounds. Other delegates made similar statements. Mr S. R.

Campbell, from Edinburgh, strongly recommended the delegates, immediately on their return home, to call meetings of the electors, and inform them of the reasons given by their representatives for the course they were taking on the Maynooth bill, in order that they might discuss the matter amongst themselves, and prepare for a contested election. Other gentlemen reported their success in waiting upon members of parliament. The report was generally favourable. The names of several additional members being mentioned, who had hitherto supported the measure, but were now prepared to vote against it. Mr G. S. BULL, of Birmingham, moved the following resolution:—

"That this Conference desires to record its devout gratitude to Almighty God for the character and results of the present Conference, for the unanimity which has marked the whole of its proceedings, notwithstanding the secession of some members of the body differing only in the mode of their opposition to the measure; for the number of the deputies composing it, unprecedented in the history of the country; for the spirit of kindness and mutual forbearance which gentlemen heretofore unaccustomed to meet together on public questions have been enabled to exercise; and for testimonies which have been forwarded from all parts of the kingdom, and from all classes of her Majesty's subjects, of determined and almost universal opposition to the bill for endowing the college of Maynooth."

The resolution was carried, after the omission of the words referring to the secession. Mr W. BUNTING regretted to say that the House of Commons had, of late years, become scandalously irreligious [hear, hear], and he sincerely hoped that an effort would be made at the next election to reform it in that respect. He moved a resolution to the effect:—

"That certain clergymen be requested to wait upon the bishops, and earnestly and respectfully solicit one or more of their lordships to take some early opportunity, as on the presentation of petitions, of announcing their hostility to the proposed measure, and also, in the event of its reaching the House of Lords, to conduct and sustain a strenuous opposition to it in all its parts and stages."

After a discussion, and on the suggestion of Mr S. GILES, of Manchester, the resolution was withdrawn upon the understanding that it would be acted upon by the rev. gentlemen who were named. After some further business, a vote of thanks to the chairman was moved by Mr Robinson, of St Andrew's, Holborn, seconded by Dr Bunting, and carried unanimously. Sir C. E. SMITH, in returning thanks, strongly urged provisional organisation throughout the country towards the objects in view, one of which, he begged to remind them, was that of pouring in contributions to the Anti-Maynooth fund. The plan for the permanent organisation of protestants, not only in this country but over Christendom, would have to be first considered in committee. He trusted that the influence of that great Conference might not be lost, but that it would tend to show that there was a Protestant-catholic church in this country which the country was determined to preserve.

The hymn, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," having been chanted by the entire meeting, followed by a prayer of thanksgiving, the Conference broke up.

PUBLIC BREAKFAST OF DISSENTING DEPUTIES.

THE deputies of the metropolitan churches of the three denominations took advantage of the presence, in town, of many ministers and deputies from the dissenting churches in the country, to invite them to meet themselves and their ministers at breakfast on Friday morning last. The entertainment was given in the large room of the London tavern. In the absence of Mr Remington Mills, the chairman, who is out of town, Mr Thomas Pewtress, the deputy-chairman, presided. On his right hand sat Sir David Brewster, whose presence excited much interest; and, on either hand, the chair was supported by the members of the committee of deputies, and some of the leading London ministers. The body of deputies and their guests occupied three tables in parallel lines, extending nearly the whole length of the room. We believe that there were more than 250 gentlemen present, among whom, besides those already referred to, and those who will be named hereafter, we observed many of the best-known dissenters, both ministers and laymen. The meal concluded, an immediate adjournment took place to the room upon the lower floor, which was barely large enough to accommodate the meeting.

In brief terms, the CHAIRMAN, for the information of the guests, sketched the history of the London deputation, and concluded with stating that, besides the pleasure of entertaining their friends at breakfast, they hoped to have the advantage of hearing from many of them, in the form of free and familiar conversation, such practical suggestions as the present crisis and local circumstances might lead them to offer.

To give point and direction to subsequent remarks, Dr BENNETT was requested to submit the following resolution:—

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, it has now become the imperative duty of all Protestant dissenters possessing the elective franchise, to exercise it, at the next election, in such a way as may be best adapted to promote the legislative triumph of the principle of religious equality and freedom from state endowment or control in ecclesiastical matters."

In complying with this request, the Dr made a few observations, characterised by his usual pungency and sententiousness. His first practical suggestion was, Repentance [hear]. He had not exercised the elective franchise hitherto, but he would in future [cheers]. He predicted that multitudes of voluntaries would spring out of the present agitation. As to the difficulty of finding suitable candidates to take the places of members of parliament who persisted in voting contrary to the opinions of their constituents, the occasion would call them forth. It was the movement of the day that created Luther, not Luther who created the reformation [cheers].

The resolution was seconded by Mr JAMES TAYLOR, A.M., of Edinburgh, who, with Sir David Brewster, is in town, as a deputation to government on the subject of the repeal of the Scottish university tests. He began by referring to the prospect afforded by Sir James Graham's conceding observations in the House of Commons, the night before, of the success their mission; on which he received the warm congratulations of the meeting. He then referred to the Maynooth College bill, and animadverted upon the effrontery with which member after member, who, to his certain knowledge, owe their seats to dissenters, get up in the House, and declare their opposition to the views of their constituents. What, he asked, do they represent? Our persons or our principles [hear]? Dr Bennett spoke of repentance; we ought to repent of sending such men to parliament [hear, hear]. We must send better men; and we must be prepared, and not be caught napping [hear]. Honourable members seemed to regard the present ferment as a mere temporary frenzy. Did we hold our principles as loosely as they theirs, that might be; but not else. Let those members depend upon it, their conduct would never be either forgotten or forgiven [hear]. Let there be general organisation; let a general election committee be formed. Proper candidates must be selected at head quarters. There were men enough ready, but some of the best were too poor to cope with election expenses. We might take a leaf out of their Scottish book. They had carried an election for something less than £50 [cheers]. The reason was, they did all the work themselves. And members, if faithful men, ought not to be put to expense. The people were the obliged party, not their representatives [hear]. They had secured a good man for the St Andrew's district of burghs—a man opposed to all endowments [loud cheers]. He advised them to put the question on this ground—Will you or will you not vote against endowments [cheers]? Pay no heed to clap-traps; have nothing to do with men who will not give an explicit answer [cheers].

Mr Brock, of Norwich, felt that one was able to say what one liked here [a laugh]. They had plainly told the liberal member for Norwich, that he must go [cheers]. Such twaddle as he wrote them in his own vindication—no man but a member of parliament could have uttered it. Honourable members betrayed deplorable ignorance on the subject of civil and religious liberty. We were now forced to go for ultimate measures [general cheers]. He hoped we had now done with the mawkish sentimentalism about having nothing to do with politics. The elective franchise was a talent put into our hands, by God, to be used. We must not only repent, but bring forth fruits meet for repentance [hear, hear].

Dr HALLEY entertained the meeting with some playful remarks. He should have thought that Norwich was better represented than all other places—the son of the great duke, and, above all, the son of the former chairman of the dissenting deputies [hear]. As to Lancashire, they had succeeded in turning Mr Brotherton. With regard to the League men, Dr Bowring (a member, he believed, of the Anti-state-church Council) had the credit of keeping them together in support of the Maynooth College bill [sensation]. The fact was, that most of the members from that district were Unitarians, and he hoped that no test of dissent would be imposed upon candidates [hear]. Never mind what they were, so long as they were good men [hear]. In Manchester, the League could carry whomever they pleased; and, upon the whole, he doubted whether the present members could be displaced. For his own part, he would vote for the best man put up [applause and disapprobation]. He deprecated any course which would let in a tory [hear, hear].

Mr CAMPBELL, independent minister of Edinburgh, was going, almost immediately, to see Mr Macaulay, and would tell him, that we were not only repenting, but were also going to bring forth fruits meet for repentance [cheers]. He had seen, yesterday, their other member, Mr Gibson Craig, who confessed that the agitation had far exceeded his calculations ["Hear," and a laugh]; that he saw no reason to think it would cease; and had made up his mind to retire [hear, hear]. And, indeed, there was not the slightest prospect that either of them would be again returned [cheers]. The signatures of electors to the memorial had decided that [cheers repeated]. He concluded with noticing the advanced state of feeling in the Free church, which, he had no doubt, would, ere long, be thoroughly opposed to endowments, and go all lengths with us [cheers].

Mr SAMUEL NICHOLSON, of Plymouth, being obliged to leave for an interview with the members for that borough [hear], begged leave to say a few words. He advised, that the voluntaries throughout the kingdom should act in concert. They had begun at Plymouth, and he hoped there would be a general organisation. He thought it a grievous mistake, to prefer religious men of tory principles to liberal men though not professors of religion [hear].

Mr J. P. MURSELL began by confessing, that he felt more at home in that room than in some other places in London ["Hear," and a laugh]. He felt it to be important that something definite should be done [hear]. It was essential that we should look for men who sympathised with us, and return none others [hear]. He rather differed from Dr Halley, unless he had misunderstood him. He agreed that we should not subject candidates to a theological test; but dissent was not theology [hear]. Above all, we should return no state-churchmen. He entreated the meeting to adhere to that principle. Indeed, he apprehended that in these times we needed to mix firmness with charity. We wanted a tonic. He hoped that passing occurrences would brace us up to a due regard for our principles [hear]. Could

not something be done prior to the elections? Let the London dissenters place themselves at once at the head of the country, which was strong enough to do anything [cheers]. Mr M. referred to the probability of a conference of dissenters being called for next week [hear]. Those who thought of calling it, he knew, wished for universal co-operation [hear]. A meeting would be held on the subject, at twelve o'clock, at Salter's Hall chapel. Hundreds of dissenting deputies would have been in London already, had they felt that they would have been at home [hear]. As to Leicester, Sir John Easthope would be walked out of that town [hear, and cries of "Ellis"].

Dr REED then addressed the meeting, confining his remarks, for the most part, to the progress of the anti-Maynooth agitation. He thought dissenters ought now to stand forth in vindication of their principles.

Dr CAMPBELL had never yet exercised his right of voting, but he always would in future. It was time for dissenters and dissenting ministers to recollect that they had rights and duties as citizens. As a proof of the state of public feeling on the question of endowments, he mentioned that at a parish meeting in St Luke's the other day, to oppose the Maynooth bill, a resolution condemning all taxation for religious purposes, was moved by a quaker present, without comment, and carried unanimously. He was glad to say their members had done their duty. Mr Duncombe had acted nobly. Some of the electors of Finsbury, he among them, had signed a memorial on the subject of Maynooth, to their other member. It was a sort of prescription which Mr Wakley took, and found himself wonderfully improved. After mentioning that Sir David Brewster was present, which intimation was received with loud cheering, Dr Campbell pointed out the many encouraging indications of the decay and downfall of all church establishments, and the progress of sound opinion in the Free church, and among the evangelical party in the church of England.

After a few words of encouragement from Dr HOBBS,

Dr Cox addressed the meeting. He urged the importance of a union of dissenters on their great and distinguishing principles. He then commented on the anti-Maynooth agitation, and expressed his regret that so many persons holding these sentiments had compromised their principles by allowing themselves to be made use of by the church party for their own purposes [loud cries of "Yes" and "No"]. He thought that policy was likely to impede their progress towards the great end. Wishing them every success in their object, he was prepared to go to the ultimate point—opposition to all state endowments [loud cheers]. When state churches fall, superstition will fall.

Mr BAYLEY, principal of the People's college at Sheffield, deeply interested the meeting with his original style of speaking. He warned them against the mob of pseudo-liberal candidates, who, when asked what are their principles, reply that they are "not particular." Being "not particular" when in contact with the electors, they were "not particular" in the presence of the Prime Minister [hear]. They were thus driven to the selection of known dissenters. It was a sort of parliamentary understanding, that none but rich men should be members; but, by your leave (said he), they shall. Truth, not money, ought to be represented. Unqualified men might not be allowed to take their seats, but their constituents should send them back, dignified with their own indignation [cheers]. We ought to be proud to be represented, not by aristocrats, but by men, lovers of truth, like the angels of God. Why, the whole hierarchy of heaven have not sixpence among them [loud cheers]. Poor men were not easiest bought. It was not the hard hand of toil, but the jeweled and white hand of aristocracy, that was apt to take bribes [loud cheers]. In making his acknowledgments for the present hospitable entertainment, Mr B. said, he and his friends had been taken in, as it were, out of the very streets [a laugh]. They had no sooner come to London, than they saw what a ridiculous position they were in [hear]. He was glad of this meeting. He hoped there would be no intermediate warfare with differences. He wanted something to be done for the current hour. We had not done in London what was expected of us. Let the gentlemen who usually give the cue, say what course they ought to take. There must be an expression of opinion. The question was, How? what sort? when? and where? [hear].

Dr MASSIE, in referring to the free-trade members of parliament, insisted that the principles of free trade ought to be applied to religion. He contended also, that we could not decently object to the grant to Maynooth, if we allowed the Irish *Regium Donum*, shared in as it was by the Unitarian Presbyterians. He hoped this would be remembered in the evening [hear]. There was the English *Regium Donum*, too; something should be said to-night to wash our hands of it. He knew that Cobden, Villiers, Gibson, and Bowring, would be affected by such means [cheers].

Mr W. A. HANKEY said he had been asked to go into parliament; and when the question was put to him, "How much will you spend at the election?" his invariable answer had been, "Not a bodle." For his own part, he was too old now ["No"]. He mentioned a case in which a friend of his had pursued the same course, and was consequently still upon the pavement instead of being upon the floor of the House. Good members must have clean hands. Members instead of paying, ought rather to be paid. But, however, persons fit to go in, had no expectations of that kind.

Mr H. RICHARD, of Marlborough chapel, threw out the following practical suggestions:—To get gentlemen from the country, 1. To try and influence the

local press. 2. To appoint deputations now, to wait on their members to induce them to vote against the third reading. 3. To suggest means as to procuring candidates for the next election.

Mr A. PELLATT called attention to the registration. There were many small cottages, as to which, by a composition of rates, many votes were precluded. He had had all his cottages rated to the poor-rate, in order to qualify the tenants; and, though it cost him twenty-five per cent. on the rent, yet he did it cheerfully [cheers].

Dr MORRISON agreed that our action must be in accordance with our own principles; still he hoped that generosity and candour would be exercised towards those who felt they could unite with others on protestant ground. He had not compromised himself by so doing. We had now a crisis; we had met on Maynooth [a cry of "No"]. Why, the ticket had "Maynooth" upon it [hear]. He could not forget he was a protestant, as well as a dissenter. We must speak out—we must resist the endowment of Maynooth. It was just because he was a dissenter, objecting to all endowments, that he could unite with others against the endowment of popery [hear, hear]. He deprecated division; it was the very thing to please Sir Robert Peel. What! had it come to this, that protestant dissenters were not to oppose popery [cheers]? Moreover, he deprecated the over-estimating of our practical position. By all means, let us abide by our principles; but let us not dictate to each other. Let us avoid intolerance of each other. Let us give liberty of thought to each other. And if he should go away at once to the Conference, let him not, for that reason, be the less welcome here [cheers].

Mr CHARLES STOVEL, Baptist minister, also approved of union, and would emphatically say, Be one. But, in order to this, the only point was to seek the emancipation of religion from state control [hear]. He and his friends complained, not of the Conference, but of not being allowed to state their sentiments there [hear]. To others it had been allowed, but it was refused to them. In conclusion, he recommended that, in so far as we differed, we should have patience one with another [cheers].

Mr JOHN BURNET referred, with much pleasantness, to the enthusiasm displayed. Warm and slashing lectures had been given, to the effect that men ought not to lecture; and then, after all, it was said these lectures did no good. In this he agreed [a laugh]. Some men had so much warmth of imagination, combined with so much zeal, that they set to work to kill things before they began to live ["Hear," and a laugh]. He then made his contribution to the stock of practical suggestions. First, we should have, in every electoral district—he wished that it were a technicality [hear]—a standing committee, to organise and collect statistics; for that would be the means of creating a power by which a tight rein could be kept upon the House of Commons [hear]. We should have no more fraks and spankerings then [a laugh]. They would decide the business of the nation [hear]. They would not force the parliament. Oh, no! If gentlemen were sent in to represent the country, and if questions like that of Maynooth, involving great principles, came up, and they could not vote with their constituents, they ought then to be furnished with certificates of recommendation for the Chiltern Hundreds [loud cheers]. As to the men, he hoped they would not speak of voting "for the best candidate they could get." Such a man would talk you over, and get in upon his betterness. In such cases, they should say, "Bad is the best of you, and I won't have the best bad." Let us only lay down this principle, and they would come up to our mark; but, if not, they would but keep a little ahead of the Tories [cheers]. As for the conduct of his own representatives, he had been to Mr Hawes, and had told him that his vote for the Maynooth bill argued a lack of statesmanly capacity. He had done with him. "But would you take a tory?" Why, he would give us but one establishment, while the pseudo-liberal would give us two. But he would not take a tory. He would get rid of a machine that would not work, and get another that would. As for the present House of Commons, let it rust, like a worthless machine, amid the rubbish of historical recollections; and let us get another and a better House [loud cheers]. At the same time, we should support the men who were with us. Why had we forgotten Mr Bright, the man that opposed the bill on the largest principles [cheers]? He then referred to Mr Hume's language about the deputations. They might have been a Lord George Gordon's mob. "Were the government aware of their coming? Were the horseguards ready mounted?" Would such a man be ever returned again? [no, no.] What did the same man do about the anti-church-rate deputations? Who introduced them to the Prime Minister? Why, this same Joseph Hume [derision]! Yet, he it was who was now so anxious to know whether the Premier had made due provision against this frightful metropolitan and provincial visitation [hear]! But we must look not for men of principle, only but of ability also—men that would compel the House to hear them—men that understood our principles, and that can and will maintain them [cheers]. Another point was, to pay no attention to hustings promises [hear]. The greatest storytellers in the world were candidates at the hustings. They dealt in innuendoes, equivokes, and all sorts of ambiguities of speech; so that one might suspect them of being continually studying "Crabbe's Synonymes" [a laugh]. Such were not honest men. Say to them, with Cromwell, "Get you gone, and let honest men take your places" [cheers]. As to the Maynooth bill, we had already three establishments in Ireland, and this would make the fourth. The opponents of the bill were blamed for raising the cry of "no popery."

They had as much right to raise it as others had to raise the cry of "incorporate popery." If there was, indeed, to be mutual concession, let it not be like Irish reciprocity, all on one side [a laugh]. If they would say, "Go on," we would still cry, "Stop" [hear]. Mr Burnet then referred to the scoffs and sneers of the liberal members, especially Mr Sheil. He would find Sunday school teachers that could teach the right honourable member religion. As for union, he was ready to unite with all parties, so far as was consistent with the interests of truth. On this ground, he was ready to go with the "no popery" party, provided the mutual understanding were not one-sided [hear]. He could unite with both parties—with the Anti-Maynooth Conference and with the Anti-state-church Association; but he could not understand those who, while, as dissenters, they would unite with churchmen on Protestant grounds, would not unite with their own brethren on dissenting grounds [hear, hear]. The great evil was the union of church and state [cheers]. First and foremost, therefore, among his practical suggestions, though last mentioned, would be this—Use every scriptural and lawful effort to get rid of that evil [hear]. It is the master grievance, and ought to be encountered with a master's power; it is the giant evil, and ought to be combated with a giant's strength [cheers]. We should have heard of no Maynooth bills, of no Education bills, but for this. Peel felt the nation's pulse by the hand of Graham, who came out of it shabbily enough [hear]. But the master could not afford to run like the servant. The Premier had made up his mind to carry his measure in spite of everything. It would, therefore, require a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together, to defeat him [loud cheers].

The CHAIRMAN now put the resolution, which was carried unanimously; and the company separated, highly gratified with the proceedings of the morning.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

The first annual meeting of the Council of Five Hundred, appointed by the Anti-state-church Conference of last year, commenced its sittings yesterday morning, at the Guildhall Coffee-house, Gresham street. There were between 100 and 150 members present. The roll having been called over,

Mr E. MIALI moved, and H. F. COLEMAN, Esq., of Leicester, seconded, that Mr John Burnet, of Camberwell, preside over the meetings of the Council.

Mr BURNET adverted to the extension of conviction on the objects of the Association during the past year, and said that, if the ministers of religion did not take care, their people would be before them. The argument of violence had been taken away by the consistent conduct of the society—and that which says "the time is not come," has been thrown down for ever by the recent conduct of her Majesty's ministers. Mr Burnet then pointed out the various forms of the establishment principle which had already existed—the Protestant Episcopal church, the *regium donum*, heterodox or orthodox, and now Roman Catholicism. The next thing that government would propose, would probably be an endowment of the Anti-state-church Association. He showed the true bearing of the Maynooth Endowment bill, and the necessity of it for keeping up ecclesiastical establishments—not to quiet Ireland—they knew how to do this, but such measures would endanger the Irish church. We began, then, at the right time. We do not ask religious liberty from the state—we only ask them not to take it from us. "Tis civil liberty we want, and it is all that we want. When that is complete, we shall have no occasion to fear anything for religious liberty."

Mr R. ECKERT, of the Wesleyan Methodist Association, moved the adoption of the following, as the bye-laws for the regulation of the Council's proceedings:—

1. That its sittings do extend from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and in the evening from 5 to 9 on Tuesday, and from 10 to 2 on Wednesday.
2. That with a view to the dispatch of business, a member of the Executive Committee in usual attendance on its sittings, be appointed on each sub-committee.
3. That notices of motion be handed in to the Chairman, to be taken into consideration in the order in which they are presented, after the reports of the Executive Committee and of the Treasurer have been read and disposed of.
4. That the recommendations of the Executive Committee on the subject of finance shall, at the assembling of the Council on Tuesday afternoon, have precedence of all other business, unless previously disposed of.

The motion was seconded by Mr WASSELL, of Bath, and carried unanimously.

Mr PRYCE, formerly of Abingdon, now of Gravesend, suggested that it should be an understanding that no person take up more than ten minutes in moving a resolution.

Mr WAYTE, of Bristol, would agree to this motion. The understanding arrived at was, that it was proper to leave members quite unfettered, but that short speeches would be exceedingly desirable.

Mr HARE then read over that part of the Scheme of Organisation relating to the duties of the Council, after which Mr E. MIALI read the

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION, TO THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL.—

The Executive Committee are happy to offer you their congratulations, on the occasion of your first assembling under the provisions of the scheme of organisation adopted by the Anti-state-church Conference of 1844. It is their duty—a duty with which they cheerfully com-

ply—to render to you a faithful account of their proceedings in discharge of the important trust committed to them by that assembly; and to ask at your hands such guidance as to their future steps, as may enable them to prosecute the great undertaking upon which they have entered, with increased efficiency and success.

From the date of their appointment (June 6, 1844) to the present time, they have assiduously employed themselves in carrying out the general views of the body who appointed them. They have sat weekly for the dispatch of business, and the attendance of members on all occasions except three, has been sufficiently numerous to constitute a quorum. Numerous sub-committees have been constantly engaged; and inasmuch as two-thirds of the committee reside in the provinces, and can only occasionally be present—considering, moreover, that some of the London members are prevented by public engagements, and other causes, from regularly attending—it will be seen that considerable labour has devolved upon the active members of the committee, and that some portion of two or three days in each week, has been ordinarily devoted by them to the business of the Association.

The Executive Committee would be much gratified, were they able to point to striking proofs of change in the public mind, as the result of their labours. They did not, however, undertake office in the expectation of working out any sudden reform in the existing state of things. They fully appreciated the immense magnitude of the enterprise upon which the conference of last year had embarked. They were called upon to stem an extraordinary current of prejudice. Their efforts were to be put forth in the face of considerable obloquy. They have been engaged rather in laying solid foundations for future progress, than in carrying on operations calculated to attract present attention, or to command any large share of immediate success. Their proceedings, consequently, have necessarily required much caution and patient deliberation. They hope they have not been deficient in energy—but have been especially anxious that all the earlier movements of the Association should be characterised by sound wisdom, and that no step might be hastily taken which subsequent experience might compel them to retrace. This anxiety may account for what, to distant friends, might appear to be the somewhat tardy action of the Committee; and, when it is borne in mind that ours is the commencement of an agitation which will demand the labour of many years for the accomplishment of its object, it will, perhaps, be admitted that caution was the safer side on which to err, and that it was far better to take time, than by a single false step, dictated by zeal, but not maturely considered in all its bearings, irretrievably to ruin all prospects of future usefulness.

It is far, however, from being the intention of the Executive Committee to leave upon your minds an impression that nothing has been effected. They believe, on the contrary, that very encouraging progress has been made. The prejudices which met them, at starting, are fast wearing away. The tongue of detraction is now well nigh silenced. In every quarter of the kingdom, our object, means, and spirit are beginning to be understood, and, with the sincere, they needed only to be understood in order to be appreciated. The great principle upon which this Association is founded is making way at least among evangelical dissenters, and, aided by events, must speedily force it upon the attention of the legislature. It is peculiarly gratifying to the committee, to be able to refer to the sound and enlightened grounds upon which a considerable proportion of the nonconforming body have based their opposition to the endowment of Maynooth college; and they conceive themselves warranted in tracing this result, in part, to the wide influence which the proceedings of the Anti-state-church Conference exerted upon the minds of dissenters, and to the knowledge of their principles diffused by means of the lectures and publications of this Association. The committee anticipate that the exertions of each succeeding year will yield an increasing, ample harvest—and that, by wise and active measures, the British Anti-state-church Association will ere long acquire a power for good, such as neither its best friends nor its worst foes anticipated for it.

It may be well to descend from these general statements, to a more detailed exposition, of the proceedings of the committee. And in order that you, gentlemen of the Council, may gain as clear a view as possible of what has been done, and what is in progress, the Executive Committee propose to report to you the substance of their labours, under such distinct heads of information, as will enable you most readily to estimate at a glance the present position of the Association. They will, therefore, lay before you a brief account of the steps which they have taken, first to complete and to extend the organisation of the society—then, to secure requisite funds—and lastly, to diffuse a knowledge of its principles.

ORGANISATION.

The Executive Committee having, as soon as possible after their appointment, engaged the commodious offices which they now occupy, 5, Aldine Chambers, Paternoster row—but which, much to their surprise and disappointment, they have received an intimation that they must quit—proceeded, among other things, to mature the details of that organisation; the general features of which had been agreed upon in conference. They were extremely anxious to accomplish this task in such a manner as to secure as great an amount of efficiency as possible, consistently with a due regard to the restrictions imposed upon them by law. They, therefore, submitted the Scheme of Organisation to Benjamin Boothby, Esq., barrister at law, for his opinion upon its legality in all respects. The case, which was elaborately drawn up by Mr Pinsent, solicitor, together with counsel's opinion upon the several points submitted to him, is in the hands of the committee. It necessitated some slight changes in the scheme of organisation, in order to render the proceedings of the Association clear from all legal objections—and those alterations, the greater part of which were little more than verbal, the Executive Committee took it upon themselves to make. In one respect, however, the departure from the original plan laid down by the Conference was important. It was found that the institution of local associations would expose all their operations to extreme peril—that such associations, if formed, could maintain no correspondence with the Executive Committee, nor contribute to its funds—and that, consequently, the main object had in view in the creation of a central and governing body would be entirely frustrated. Under these circumstances, the Executive Committee were obliged to abandon the usual machinery of

organisation; believing, as they did, that the object at which they were aiming was sufficiently repugnant to the views of government, to expose them to the probabilities of a prosecution, whenever they should be caught tripping. They deliberated with much anxiety upon the various plans which came under their notice, and resolved, at length, upon that which is now in successful operation. They earnestly discouraged their friends, by public advertisements, from forming themselves into auxiliary or local associations. They advised the appointment, in each district, of a registrar, whose duty it would be to exert himself personally in promoting the objects of the Association—to enrol members—to receive their subscriptions—to transmit them steadily to the Treasurer—and to advise from time to time with the Executive Committee, as to the delivery of lectures, the holding of public meetings, and the adoption of all other means calculated to diffuse a knowledge of our principles. One hundred gentlemen have consented to act in that capacity, to whom all requisite instructions have been furnished. It will not be necessary to trouble you with the details of these. They were adopted after mature deliberation, and, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, have been found to answer the purpose for which they were intended.

This organisation the Executive Committee are gradually and steadily extending. Indeed, their work, in this respect, may be said to be only just commenced. They resolved, in January last, upon taking immediate steps for the appointment of a registrar for every dissenting congregation in the metropolis, and, as far as might be compatible with local convenience and with pre-existing arrangements, of one for each congregation in the country. Upon this resolution they took immediate steps in reference to London, although without any extensive success. They have also made some progress in various provincial towns. This work they propose to push on with vigour during the ensuing year, and they earnestly appeal to you, gentlemen of the Council, for co-operation in the effort. There appears to the Executive Committee no valid reasons why a registrar of the British Anti-state-church Association should not be as much a matter of course in every dissenting congregation in the empire, as a collector for the Missionary, Bible, or Tract Society. Some time must necessarily elapse before this arrangement is fully accomplished—but the Executive Committee are persuaded that it is practicable—and, when completed, will be eminently successful.

Before the Committee quit this branch of their report, it may be proper for them to notify the few changes which have occurred in the Council and in their own body. Three gentlemen, placed on the Council of Five Hundred by the Conference, have since that period deceased—the Rev. Thomas Parry of Dover, Mr Mackay of Aberdeen, and Mr Marshall of Stirling. Twelve others have resigned office in connexion with the Association—the Rev. A. Fletcher, of London; Mr J. Walker, Halifax; Mr J. Hamilton, Youghall; Rev. Jos. Gray, Chelmsford; Mr Eccles, Coleraine; Rev. J. Goadby, Leicester; Mr A. Albright, Birmingham; Rev. J. Watson, Edinburgh; Rev. G. M. Watson, Cork; Mr J. Barclay, London; Rev. W. F. Poile, Derby; and the Rev. W. Upton, St Alban's. These vacancies can only be filled up, in conformity with the Scheme of Organisation, by a general conference. In the Executive Committee the changes have not been so numerous. Four gentlemen have resigned—but, in no instance, from any expressed disapproval of the proceedings of the Association—Joseph Sturge, Esq., and Mr Albright, of Birmingham; Sharnan Crawford, Esq., M.P., and the Rev. M. Thomas, Aberystwyth—three of whom remain on the Council. The vacancies were notified to you, gentlemen of the Council, upon their occurrence, and you were pleased to elect, as the successors to these gentlemen, J. M. Webb, Esq., of London; G. Offor, Esq., of Hackney; G. Evans, Esq., of Maesypandy, North Wales; and Rev. J. Stevenson, A.M., of London.

The Executive Committee have nothing further to report under this head, but would merely express their most anxious desire that you, gentlemen of the Council, may, in your respective localities, exert yourselves to the utmost in completing and rendering thoroughly efficient the machinery which the Committee have so much thought upon devising. They would recommend to your earnest attention the necessity of "a division of labour."

FUNDS.

In this department of their report, the Executive Committee, whilst they have no reason to trouble you with complaints, have strong grounds for urging immediate, simultaneous, and strenuous exertion. They are persuaded that, by the adoption of well-considered measures, there would be found no serious difficulty in the way of placing at their disposal a permanent income, amply sufficient to enable them to carry on the operations of the Association with a greatly augmented power. They cannot regard the proceeds of this first year of agitation, as representing the amount which in future they may justly anticipate. Their friends, for the most part, have been called upon to contribute in faith. Until recently the Committee could point to nothing actually done, in appealing for money. They will be able now to go before the public with stronger arguments than they were able to employ at starting. They can make out a case of urgent need, not by vague assurances of what they intend to effect, but by solid evidence of what they have effected. Whilst they require no sacrifices for the payment of officers, they cannot, in the present state of opinion in reference to the question of state churches, diffuse much information on the subject, without, in the first instance, bearing the whole expense of their efforts. Even where, as throughout the past year, lecturers have given their services gratuitously, and no paid agency has been employed, the hire of rooms, traveling expenses, and advertising, have amounted to a serious burden. It should be borne in mind, that, in general, we are aiming to pour unwelcome truth into unwilling ears—and the Committee have judged that they would hardly accomplish this object with success, by starting with an application for money. Hence, their exertions, in this respect, have been considerably circumscribed by the delicacy and difficulty of their position—a delicacy and difficulty, however, which every year will do much to remove.

The Executive Committee deemed themselves justified in making their first application for funds to the pledged friends of the movement. They distributed collecting books amongst the members of the Council resident in the metropolis—and at the same time addressed a circular to all the members of the Council, metropolitan and provincial. In this circular they suggested that an

average annual subscription of ten shillings each from members of the Council would not be too high a sum to expect—and that, in addition to personal subscriptions, prompt application in each case to the known friends of the Association in the locality, might be made to furnish at least thirty shillings more. The Committee believed that in very few instances would the collection of subscriptions to that amount impose any arduous duty on the members of the Council—and that, although in some places the result might be below the average named, yet in by far the larger number of cases it would be above it. The replies to this circular, although not so prompt and general as might have been justly expected, placed some funds at the disposal of the Committee—but it is to be remembered that the effort, unless annually sustained by the friends who responded to the appeal then made to them, can be productive of only a temporary advantage.

The remaining funds obtained by the Executive Committee have arisen out of the enrolment of members of the Association. The Conference, with a view to extend as widely as possible the constituency of the Association, and an interest in its objects, fixed the *minimum* amount of subscription constituting membership at one shilling per annum. Owing, it is supposed, to a misunderstanding of the end sought by this arrangement, it was found greatly to restrict the liberality of the supporters of the movement. The Committee found that in some instances, even when a higher rate of subscription was paid by members, a shilling only, in each case of membership, was transmitted to them—the surplus being retained for local agitation, and for the purchase of publications—whilst, in a great proportion of instances, the *minimum* sum was adopted, even by those who could afford, and were willing, upon a due representation of the case, to give more. They therefore issued a circular to the registrars, calling attention to the matter, reminding them that the appointment of stated lecturers, upon which the Committee had determined, the holding of public meetings, the delivery of lectures, and other methods of bringing the principles of the Association before the public mind, independently altogether of expenses incurred in the direction of all the Society's operations, involved an outlay which it would be impossible to meet, if its members generally adopted the shilling subscription as their *maximum*—and strenuously urging upon registrars, in all their future efforts to obtain support for the Association, to bear in mind the fact that the shilling subscription was originally adopted as a *minimum*, and that the future existence of the Society would be in some measure dependent on a more liberal scale of subscription being more generally observed.

The Executive Committee cannot pass away from this topic, without adverting to the immediate necessity which exists for placing the finances of the Association on a permanently satisfactory footing. They express their fervent hope that you, gentlemen of the Council, will, before you separate, adopt some plan whereby the pecuniary resources of the Society may be largely increased. The statement of the Treasurer, which will be submitted to you this day, will demonstrate the desirability of prompt and energetic action in this particular. The Association's movements have been conducted throughout with a vigilant eye to economy. Effort has, in many respects, been crippled with a view to keep down the expenditure. It is clear, that the events occurring around us will demand from the Association, during the ensuing year, operations upon a larger and more comprehensive scale. The times call aloud for action—earnest, decided, persevering, and, as far as possible, greatly extended action. We have an auspicious seed-time—and being thus favoured, the Executive Committee would venture to remind their friends, that "they who sow sparingly shall reap also sparingly."

ACTION.

The various means adopted by the Executive Committee, in bringing the principles of the Association in contact with the public mind, have been in strict conformity with the provisions laid down in the Scheme of Organisation, and, as far as could be gathered, with the spirit evinced by the Conference. The Committee have earnestly pursued their object, but, they hope, without manifesting any of the violence of rash and reckless partisans. They have aimed to present truth to the minds of the uninformed, in its native simplicity, dignity, and gentleness. Neither in their publications, nor in their lectures, have they assailed with bitterness of invective those from whom they differ. The Committee believe that many who looked on their first movements with alarm have been won over to a juster appreciation of the motives and temper with which it is proposed to seek the accomplishment of our object—and that many, who watched for some outbreak of fiery and misguided zeal, have been completely disappointed. The main efforts of the Committee have been directed, during the past year, to enlighten and to stir up professed, but apathetic, non-conformists. In the outset of their career, they met with much coldness. As they proceeded, however, the number of their friends increased; and now, the recent measure of government has opened the eyes of thousands, dissipated their prejudices, convinced them of the perils by which their principles are threatened, and placed this Association in the proud position of having done its best, amidst much obloquy, to prepare dissenters to weather the storm which assails them.

The details of the operations conducted by the Executive Committee, during the year, may be most conveniently classified under the heads of—lectures, publications, and incidental methods of advancing the Society's objects.

The Committee judged it important to commence action in the metropolis. They wish to demonstrate to their friends in the country their readiness to grapple, at starting, with that stolid indifference to great principles, which is too truly supposed to characterise London and its neighbourhood. They were able, moreover, by such an arrangement, to do the most work at the least cost; and they believed that, whatever warmth they might be able to excite in the heart of the empire, would quickly find its way to the extremities. They, therefore, made arrangements for the delivery of a series of lectures, in different parts of the metropolis, during the winter months. Some difficulty was at first experienced in obtaining the use of suitable chapels for the purpose—a difficulty which lessened as time wore on. The town was divided into eight districts; a local committee was appointed for each; and several lectures were delivered in every district, not in the same place of worship, but, as often as possible, in different ones, in order

that the audiences on every occasion might constitute fresh ground in which to scatter the seed of truth. Thirty-five lectures have been delivered, under this arrangement, during the past four or five months—five by the Rev. Dr Cox; seven by Mr Miall; two by the Rev. C. Stovel; five by the Rev. J. Carlile; six by the Rev. W. Forster; six by the Rev. John Burnet; one by the Rev. John Stevenson; two by Mr Hooper; and one by the Rev. E. Halliday. The attendance upon these lectures was, of course, various; but it is gratifying to the Committee to be able to state that it steadily increased from the commencement—that, so far as facts have come to their knowledge, they have done not a little to create an interest in the proceedings of the Association—and that, at the close of each lecture, several new members were enrolled, and many copies of the Society's publications were disposed of.

In regard to the provinces, the operations of the Committee have been somewhat more occasional, although considerably more extensive. Early in the autumn, the Rev. James Carlile acted as a deputation from the Committee to the Anti-state-church Conference held in Wales, and, by his presence, induced the friends of the movement, in the Principality, to pass, among others, the following important resolution:—

"That this Conference, after much inquiry and deliberation, records its conclusion, that the only effectual way for the friends of freedom, in Wales, to co-operate with the Anti-state-church Association, is by registering themselves as members of it, according to the recommendation recently issued by the Executive Committee—especially as such an arrangement would leave it perfectly open for them to adopt such other local measures for the promotion of the sacred cause of religious freedom as may best suit the circumstances of their respective neighbourhoods." Mr Carlile is under engagement to visit North Wales, with a view to lecture and hold public meetings, in the principal places of that district, early in June next.

Public meetings have been held, under the auspices and at the expense of the Executive Committee, in the following towns:—Bath and Bristol, at which Dr Cox and the Rev. John Burnet attended as a deputation from the Association; Leicester, attended by the Rev. J. P. Mursell and Mr Miall; Colchester, by the Rev. J. Carlile and Mr Miall; Northampton, by Dr Cox and Mr Miall; Exeter, Devonport, and Plymouth, by Rev. J. Burnet and Rev. W. Forster; Brentford, by Dr Cox and Mr Miall.

Lectures have been delivered at Lynn, Maidstone, at Bristol, by Dr Cox; at Sudbury, Bungay, Harlestone, Halesworth, Ipswich, Leicester, and Tottenham, by Mr Miall; and at Tavistock, Tunbridge, Brenchley, Lamberhurst, and Staplehurst, in Kent, by Rev. W. Forster. A series of lectures also has been delivered in connexion with this Association at Leeds and its neighbourhood, under the conduct of the members of the Executive Committee and of the Council resident in that borough, and arrangements are in progress or are completed for sending deputations to hold public meetings, or to deliver lectures, at Liverpool, Manchester, Bolton, Rochdale, and the surrounding neighbourhoods, Kettering, Harbrow, Clifton, and the towns of Northamptonshire, Nottingham and the district by which it is surrounded, and other places of less note.

The burden of these labours has hitherto been chiefly borne by a few members of Executive Committee, whose time and energies have been cheerfully placed, as far as settled duties would permit, at the service of the Association. The Committee cannot but think that many of their friends in the provinces might occasionally take their part in these useful exertions—that a much larger amount and variety of effective talent might thus be brought into play—and that, at a comparatively small expense, and with comparatively little sacrifice, the less populous neighbourhoods of most of our leading towns might be penetrated, in all parts of the country, by the light of truth. They wish to call out, and exercise, as much as possible, whatever there may exist of local strength—and they would submit to your judgment, gentlemen of the Council, whether you might not extensively promote the objects of the Association, by planning and carrying into effect such measures, as may enlist the services of all the competent friends of the movement in your respective localities.

In the prosecution, however, of these various labours, the Executive Committee have been repeatedly and urgently reminded of the necessity which exists for employing, as soon as possible, and to as great an extent as their funds will allow, some stated and salaried agency, to follow up, and turn to account, the visits of deputations. Those visits are necessarily brief, the interest which they excite soon dies away, and the public mind, touched only here and there upon the surface, soon loses whatever useful impressions may have been produced upon it. The Committee, after mature consultation and deliberation, proceeded to seek for the entire service of some individual well qualified to lecture, and to take prominent part at public meetings, and at the same time possessed of suitable business habits, whom they might employ in visiting, stirring up, and organising whole districts of the country. Two gentlemen whose services they solicited declined, although most courteously, the invitation of the Committee; and unable, after much and frequent inquiry, to fix their eye upon any person, at once competent for the work and likely to undertake it, they inserted an advertisement in the public prints, announcing their wants, and inviting communications. To that advertisement eighteen answers have been received; and the Committee confidently hope that they will be able to select from among the applicants a gentleman in all respects suited to the work to be entrusted to him. The whole subject is one upon which the Committee have been most anxiously cautious in all the steps which they have taken, fully aware that precipitation in so grave a matter might most seriously compromise the character of the Association, and involve it in a heavy expense, which would yield no adequate return. But of the absolute and pressing necessity of taking some such step they entertain no doubt; and, in this respect, they feel that they are but carrying out the expressed intentions of the Conference.

In the department of PUBLICATIONS, the Committee have not been inactive. As early as possible after the closing of the Conference, they issued an edition of 2,000 copies of the "Proceedings of the First Anti-state-church Conference," which they sold to members at 6d., and to the public at 2s. This edition was almost instantly exhausted. They considered themselves warranted by the extensive demand, in sending forth, soon after, a "people's edition" of the same work, at the price

of one shilling. The number of copies printed was 3,000—of which 1,250 have been sold, and it is to be noted, that until now, the sale is steadily, although somewhat slowly, going on. The Committee subsequently published, as separate tracts, the several papers read at the Conference, of which the following is an account of sale:—

	Copies sold.
History of the Circumstances, &c., by Dr COX...	749
The Principle of Voluntaryism, by Dr WARDLAW	721
The Practical Evils of State Churches, by Mr MIALL.....	776
The External forms of the Establishment Principle, by Rev. J. W. Massie	688
The Legal Changes involved in Separation, by a BARRISTER	900
Means of Promoting the Object of the Conference, by Rev. J. P. MURSELL	732

In addition to these publications, the Executive Committee, towards the close of last year, made arrangements for issuing a monthly series of tracts during the year 1845. They selected, with this view, a number of subjects, and solicited the services of nine gentlemen, whose names were an ample guarantee both for their ability, zeal, and special knowledge of the question, in preparing each a tract on the subject assigned to him, at the rate of £5 per sheet. Three of the subjects thus chosen they offered to public competition, assigning to the successful competitor in each case a premium of £10. Five tracts have now been published—January, "An Address to Dissenters on the Religious Bearings of the State-Church Question." February—"The Church of Christ—what is it?" by Mr BREWIN GRANT—a prize tract. March—"The Law of Christ for Maintaining and Extending the Church," by the Rev. DAVID YOUNG, D.D., of Perth. April—"Church Patronage," by M. BRIDGES, Esq. May—"State Churches not Churches of Christ"—a prize tract, by EDWARD SMITH PRYCE, B.A. The edition in each instance has been small, not exceeding 2,000—and the following is an account of the stock now in the hands of the Committee:—

	Copies in hand.
January Tract	402
February ditto	810
March ditto	1181
April ditto	1620
May ditto.....	(only just out.)

It must be obvious to you, gentlemen of the Council, that this ratio of sale is very far below what, if due local exertions were used, the Committee might justly expect. At the same time, they anticipate much fruit from the circulation of these small publications, even to the present extent—and bearing in mind that they have but just commenced their enterprise against state-churches, they would record their unfeigned gratitude for the measure of success, however apparently small, which has followed their exertions.

The Committee have had under consideration, and have appointed a sub-committee to superintend, the publication, at intervals, of small hand-bills and four-paged tracts, containing a few terse and pungent remarks on some aspect of the state-church principle, to be sold at so low a price as to enable the friends of the movement to purchase by hundreds and thousands for gratuitous distribution. They have also deliberated upon the expediency of issuing to subscribers, engaged beforehand, three or four volumes in the year, consisting of original treatises, and reprints of standard works, on the question of establishments, under the general title of "The Nonconformist's Library." Their plans, however, are not yet matured—and they bring the subject now under your notice, rather with the view of eliciting opinion, than with any design of immediate action. The project is a large one, and will require, in order to its success, much research, forethought, and arrangement—but the Committee, although unprepared at the present moment with a definite and detailed plan, and without any intention of taking immediate steps in the matter, deem it expedient to bring the subject under your notice, in the hope of profiting by your suggestions and guidance.

It will not be necessary for the Executive Committee to detain you long with their report of the incidental methods adopted by them to promote the objects of the Association. With a view of connecting together as much as possible the friends of the movement, and of providing a place of rendezvous for their country supporters whilst visiting the metropolis, the Committee having arranged with the proprietors of several newspapers and periodicals for a gratuitous supply of their several publications, opened the committee room, Aldine Chambers, for the use of such parties—a step which, they believe, gave general satisfaction.

Upon the introduction to the legislature, by her Majesty's government, of the Maynooth Endowment bill, the Committee proceeded to take such steps, in opposition to it, as the means within their reach allowed them. They adopted and published a short series of resolutions, setting forth the broad grounds upon which they objected to the measure, and they have reason to believe that not a few dissenters, in different parts of the empire, were guided by this declaration of the Committee's views. The following are the resolutions referred to:—

"1. That this Committee view with serious apprehension the proposal of her Majesty's government to increase the annual grant to Maynooth college; and that, looking to the circumstances which have led to this proposal, and to the mode in which it is to be carried into effect, they can regard it in no other light than as a deliberate step towards the establishment of the Roman Catholic church in Ireland.

"2. That this Committee cordially admit the claim of their Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen, irrespectively of their religious views, to the enjoyment of every right to which the citizens of a free community are entitled; and they protest, with equal earnestness, against the outrage done to the feelings of the Roman Catholic population of Ireland, by the establishment of the Protestant Episcopal church, as they do against the wrong sought to be inflicted upon Protestants by giving state support for the diffusion of Romanism.

"3. That it is the firm belief of this Committee that in matters of religion man is responsible to God alone—that all legislation by secular governments, in affairs of religion, is an encroachment upon the rights of man, and an invasion of the prerogatives of God—and that the application, by law, of the resources of the state to the maintenance of any form or forms of religious worship and instruction is contrary to reason, hostile to human liberty, and directly opposed to the word of God.

"4. That, therefore, this Committee, while they record their decided objection to the appropriation of any

portion of the national funds, whether in the shape of parliamentary grants or otherwise, to nonconforming communities, or to the support of the existing Protestant establishments, and are engaged in seeking, by all constitutional means, the dissolution of the alliance between the church and the state, in all its forms, emphatically protest against the endowment of Roman Catholic ecclesiastical institutions, as an uncalled-for and impolitic extension of a principle which they repudiate as inimical to the civil and religious interests of the empire."

The Executive Committee followed up the publication of these resolutions by a public meeting at the Eastern Institution, Commercial road; another, at the Mermaid tavern, Hackney; a third, at the Tabernacle, Moorfields; and another, at Tottenham Court Road chapel; and their intention of doing so at the Borough road, Southwark, was prevented by circumstances not under their own control.

The Executive Committee would have rejoiced at being able to take still more decided and vigorous steps in relation to the Maynooth bill, and to avail themselves to a much larger extent of the opening it affords them for enforcing anti-establishment doctrines, had the financial position of the Society been such as to warrant them in incurring serious expense. As it is, they have made the best use of the means in their hands, and will be most happy should you, gentlemen of the Council, deem it expedient to profit by the postponement of the third reading of the bill in the House of Commons, and to concentrate your energies upon an uncompromising opposition to the measure, on the intelligible, consistent, and solid ground set forth in the published resolutions of the Committee.

Gentlemen of the Council, you have now before you a concise outline of the proceedings of the Executive Committee, during the past year. On their part the Committee have done what they could. And, in closing their report, they take occasion to recognise, with unfeigned gratitude, their dependence upon God, and their obligations to him for any measure of success which may have accompanied their efforts; and earnestly implore the guidance, protection, and blessing of the Head of the church, in all their future efforts to enfranchise his pure and beneficent religion from the degrading bonds of state thralldom.

The CHAIRMAN called upon the Treasurer to present a report of the finances of the Association, which showed the total receipts of the Association during the year to have been £1,002 2s. 11d.
Expenditure 869 18 8

Balance in hands of Treasurer 132 4 3
The Treasurer also handed in a donation from R. Hardy, Esq., of Worcester, a member of the Council, unable to be present, of £20 [cheers].

Mr ROBINSON, of Kettering, in moving that the report be received and printed, adverted to the division on Mr S. Crawford's motion in the House of Commons on Monday evening, on state endowments, as a proof that we had a great and important work to do.

Mr W. BAINES, of Leicester, seconded the resolution.

Mr J. SMEDMORE, of Leicester, then moved that the Executive Committee be instructed to call the next annual meeting of the Council at Leicester, and gave a cordial invitation to all the members.

Dr Cox, in seconding the resolution, eulogised the conduct of the Leicester nonconformists.

Mr PRYCE, of Gravesend, then moved the following resolution:—

"That the members of the Council now present, under a deep sense of the daily increasing importance of the British Anti-state-church Association, pledge themselves vigilantly to watch for and improve all means of promoting its interests in their various localities, by obtaining subscriptions and donations in aid of its funds, by making arrangements for the delivery of lectures to explain and urge its principles, by promoting the circulation of its publications, by securing the services of suitable registrars, and by all other means which local circumstances may permit."

Mr P. insisted upon the great importance of the Association. He spoke of the necessity of letting all the proceedings be characterised by calm deliberation.

Mr HOLLAND, of St Ives, seconded the resolution. He described the forces of the establishment, and the activity of the clergy in schools, village clubs, and reading societies. The time is come when the question must be decided, who shall have the population of the country. The dissenters in the country had many difficulties with which to contend—loss of respectability, false sense of gratitude, alarm at the boldness of our own principles. These difficulties could only be met by decision of conduct. He touched, with much shrewdness of judgment, upon the several topics suggested by the resolution, offering pecuniary contributions in the name of his congregation, and earnestly entreating that a deputation be sent among them in Huntingdonshire.

Dr PRICE stated several facts in relation to the funds, in order to inform the Council of the actual state of affairs before they passed the resolution, and urged the country members to do their part with earnestness, in dividing the country, and covering it with a course of effective services.

Mr CAMPBELL, of Hanley, inquired how many of the Council had responded to the appeal made to them by the Committee.

Mr RICHARDS, of Alnwick, spoke of the several modes by which he was attempting to promote the objects of the Association.

Mr BONNER, of Bilstone, offered to become a registrar.

Mr WAYTE, of Ilminster, spoke of the delicacy of his own position, promised to be a registrar, and to obtain £5.

Mr MORRIS, of Burton-on-Trent, supported the resolution.

Dr LEE, of Aylesbury, said he happened to be one of the "do-nothing" gentlemen. When he became a member at first of the Association, he had no difficulty in his own neighbourhood (Aylesbury), and

recommended that registrars should be laymen as often as possible.

Mr E. MIALI earnestly requested, that the members of the Council would, wherever practicable, pay, from local contributions, the expenses of the deputations incurred in the neighbourhood. The resolution was then put and carried.

Mr HARE moved:—

"That to carry out the objects of this Association, it is highly expedient and essential that, during the ensuing year, a sum of not less than £3,000 should be raised for its use; and that members of the Council now present be requested to offer suggestions as to the best mode of realising this amount."

Mr E. CLARKE, of Snarebrook, seconded the resolution in an interesting and effective speech.

Mr RICHARDS, of Alnwick, suggested that ministers in towns in which members of the Council reside, should, at the instance of the registrars, be written to in application for funds.

Mr WASSELL, of Bath, Mr GLANVILLE, and several other gentlemen, spoke to the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

Mr J. P. MURSELL, of Leicester, then moved the following resolution:—

"That, in the judgment of this Council, the time has now arrived when it is essential to the successful progress of the British Anti-state-church Association, that one or more suitable individuals should be engaged, to devote themselves exclusively to the work of lecturing and of organising the friends of the Society throughout the country."

Dr CAMPBELL, editor of the *Christian Witness*, seconded the resolution.

After some discussion, it was thought better to adjourn the consideration of the question until five o'clock—the evening sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

The Council re-assembled at five o'clock, when the subject of the appointment of a stated lecturer was resumed. A long and interesting discussion took place, in which Dr PRICE, Mr D. R. STEPHEN of Newport, J. CONDER, Esq., Mr FORSTER of Highgate, R. NORRIS, Esq., of Bristol, and others, took part. All the speakers seemed to concur in the importance of the subject under consideration, and eventually the resolution was unanimously passed. Dr MASSIE of Manchester then moved, and Mr H. H. DORNEY of Maidstone seconded, the following resolutions:—

"That in the view of this Council, the distribution or reception of the parliamentary grant for poor dissenting ministers in England and Wales, and to Presbyterians in Ireland, is utterly inconsistent with the fundamental principles on which this Association is based.

"That the character of the former of these grants is not affected, nor are the objections to it diminished, by the fact of its having been, in former years, a royal gift, and that the solemn and deliberate conviction of the Society is, therefore, again recorded, that all such grants are unsound in principle, seriously detrimental to the progress of religious liberty, adapted to involve the advocates of scriptural voluntarism in suspicion, and to attach to their labours a charge of inconsistency, from which, in the judgment of opponents, it is impossible to escape.

"That an address to the distributors and recipients of those grants be, therefore, prepared by the Executive Committee, setting forth the views of this Association, and urging the duty of their immediately discontinuing any further participation in the monies voted by the legislature.

"That, in order completely to vindicate this Association, and with a view to their protest being made as public as possible, the following petition against these grants be presented to the House of Commons, and that they be requested to divide the House against them."

R. NORRIS, Esq., of Bristol, moved, and Mr STEPHEN of Newport, seconded, the next resolution:—

"That this Council cordially approve the measures adopted by the Executive Committee in opposition to the Maynooth Endowment bill, and of the principle on which that opposition had been based; that they distinctly repudiate the competency of the legislature to decide on the truth or error of conflicting creeds, and affirm that it is foreign from its province, an invasion of religious liberty, and a wrong done to conscience, to vote public money to any class of religionists, or for any ecclesiastical purpose; that, without assuming any right to control the procedure of their members, they would be wanting to their own convictions if they did not record their deep regret at the progress of the government bill having been aided by the votes of some of their own members, and they respectfully but earnestly entreat the gentlemen in question to give the principle of the measure a renewed and more thorough examination, and that the Executive Committee be requested to address them on the subject."

W. H. GLOVER, Esq., of Leeds, moved, and Mr KENT of Norwood seconded, the following resolution:—

"That this Council cordially unite with the general body of Dissenting Deputies of the Three Denominations, in and within twelve miles of London, in the request which they have made public, that Protestant dissenting ministers will, on or about the next anniversary of Bartholomew's day (August 24), preach sermons in explanation and defence of the principles of nonconformity and dissent, and venture to hope that those congregations which are favourable to objects of the Anti-state-church Association, will on that day make a public collection in aid thereof."

After the transaction of some further business, and votes of thanks had been passed to the Executive Committee and the Chairman of the meeting, the meeting terminated its sittings.

We are sorry we cannot find room in the present number to give more than the above routine report of the proceedings of the Council. The speeches delivered during the sittings were earnest and practical; and the accounts given of the pro-

gress of the principles of the Association in various parts of the country by gentlemen present, of the most encouraging character.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION. — Messrs Burnet and Foster lately visited Devonport and Plymouth, in which places numerous and respectable meetings were held. The deputation, in their speeches, referred, in faithful language, to the mournful and portentous fact, that, in the present day of danger to the great principles of Protestant dissent, the dissenting preachers and leading members are giving such proofs of apathy and timidity respecting the cause which they profess to love and uphold. On Friday evening, in the same week, Mr W. Forster lectured to a large and attentive audience at Tavistock. T. Rundle, Esq., late member for that borough, took the chair, and spoke in an admirable manner on the subject which the lecturer introduced to the meeting. A vote of thanks was moved to the deputation, and carried unanimously. The visit of the representatives from the Anti-state-church Association into Devonshire, has shown very clearly that the congregations are ripening for the movement, and that it requires only the leadership of the pastors, and some of the more influential men in most instances, to give the anti-state-church cause an impetus, which would throw new life into dissenting churches, and awaken a spirit of inquiry among churchmen, respecting our principles, which would be followed by the most cheering consequences.

THE ANTI-MAYNOOTH AGITATION.

The meetings throughout the country, in opposition to the Maynooth grant, still continue; but we have no space to report them. "On Wednesday evening last," says the *Leeds Times*, "a very large and important public meeting was held in South Parade chapel, Leeds, which was called expressly for the purpose of opposing the proposed grant to Maynooth college, on the ground of the voluntary principle, and the unjust and unscriptural character of all state endowments of religion. The chapel was crowded to excess in every part, numbers being unable to obtain seats; and, on the platform, were several ministers and gentlemen connected with the various dissenting denominations in the town. The meeting was of a very spirited, unanimous, and enthusiastic character." James Richardson, Esq., occupied the chair; and, among the speakers, were the following ministers:—Messrs J. H. Morgan, Williams, Dr Hamilton, J. Fox, J. E. Giles, and J. Peters (Wesleyan Association). Both speeches and resolutions were based on the anti-endowment principles. Dr Hamilton administered the following rebuke to Mr Sheil and the declaimers against dissenters:—

He must remind his friends, Catholic and Protestant, that, in the great emergence and crisis of emancipation, he not only appeared fully and prominently, receiving several letters threatening him with assassination, but that, also, the Catholic institute of this country were so pleased with something that he had written, that they circulated through the east, west, north, and south, about 60,000 copies of it [applause]. Therefore, he was no enemy to his Catholic compatriots [hear, hear].

He forcibly stated his grounds of objection to the measure, and his reasons for not joining the "no popery" party:—

And in what a company did he find himself? Why, if he were Falstaff, he would not march with that minority in the House of Commons through Coventry! it would be a degradation [laughter and applause]. He never supposed to see himself associated as he was, but, at the same time, he loved his principles better than his friends, and if his friends deserted his principles, then he quitted his friends, but still he held to his principles [applause]. Those with whom he used to think were now the majority; those whom he had been wont to oppose were now in the minority, and he was in the minority too [hear, hear, and laughter]. How could they get into the intellectual and moral majority? He had no objection to count heads—take it by the capitation vote, and he thought they would succeed [hear, hear]. But everything that convinced his fellow-countrymen that a searching revision in our electoral system was necessary, was a good in itself [loud applause]. It might spring from an evil, but an evil was thus converted into a good. Keep their eyes open! Were they represented? ["No, no."] He had often thought they were not—he was now convinced [hear, hear]. But let not this impression be the momentary impression of the evening. But remember they had had warning, prophetic warning. Hustings would be erected by-and-bye. How would they then act? [a person exclaimed, "We want votes."] He would give them every one a vote [hear, hear, and enthusiastic cheering]. Be assured it was not him that withheld it. They could not conceive what an amazing bill he would bring in—how very comprehensive it would be—if he had but the power [loud applause]. . . . Much had been said as to the principle of coming there to-night. He said it was a Protestant principle after all; because, if he were to speak about Protestantism, and yet must blink all of conscience and all of private judgment, that was Protestantism not worthy of the name. He loved the Protestantism that thinks and lets think. He loved the Protestantism that could speak out. Now none of them were fettered [renewed applause]. Very high might be the atmosphere of this meeting, but they could all breathe. He might not say anything about other meetings. He might not say whether compromise or neutrality were right on any question, but he could say, that here he was at home—this was the platform for him, for he had nothing to hide and nothing to mince [loud applause]. They would allow him, also, just to add that, whilst he felt that the circumstances in which they had met to-night might seem to prejudice them on the score of liberality, they had only to be understood, and then he believed the country would come round to their side.

Mr Giles, in the course of his admirable speech, quoted the following extract from a speech of Mr

O'Connell, when they met upon the same platform, to move and second a resolution. The only point of difference between them was, that while Mr Giles claimed it as the peculiar province of Protestant dissenters to oppose compulsory payments for religious purposes, Mr O'Connell dissented from the statement:—

"Permit me," said he—for luckily the speech is on record—"permit an humble Papist to claim his share. I say that it is the business of every man, of every convinced Christian, to get rid of the reproach and the taint of a compulsory payment—of a compulsion of any kind upon human conscience [cheers]. I have asserted that principle all my life. I have been the successful advocate of that principle, and I will enter into a generous rivalry with Protestants of every description, to see who will best argue and enforce that principle."

A meeting of a similar character was held at the British school, Shelton, in the Potteries, on Monday week. There was an overflowing and highly respectable attendance—the capacious room being crowded in every part, and numbers were unable to gain admittance. William Ridgway, Esq., occupied the chair, and all the dissenting ministers of the neighbourhood, including Dr Halley of Manchester, and Dr Davidson of Lancashire college. The proceedings were of a most enthusiastic character, based upon sound principles. Some interruption from a Romanist took place, but he was severely rebuked by a Catholic gentleman present, who said that he had heard principles put forward which he admired, and which no Catholic ought to find fault with. Meetings of a like character have also been held at Sunderland and Keighley.

GREAT MEETING AT FINSBURY CHAPEL.—An aggregate meeting, convened by the deputies of the Three Denominations, was held at Finsbury chapel, on Friday night, to oppose the Maynooth grant on the anti-endowment principle. The meeting was crowded and most enthusiastic; the speeches more than usually eloquent, pregnant, and telling. We regret our inability to report them. Mr Morris, of Holloway, led the way by the repudiation of all endowments of religion, responded to in no equivocal manner by the immense assembly present. He was followed by Mr Felkin, of Nottingham; Dr Massie, of Manchester; Mr R. S. Bayley, of Sheffield (the honoured founder of the People's college there); J. H. Hinton, Dr Cox, A. Pellatt, Esq., and others, all avowing the same simple, broad, unmistakable, consistent principle, and denouncing all participation in the "no popery" cry. With the single exception of Mr Alexander, of Norwich, no reference was made to the Roman Catholic religion, save to deprecate its being made the ground of opposition to the government bill; and the meeting plainly told the respected gentleman that they would not have it introduced there even by him. One incident we cannot but allude to, illustrative as it was of the character of the assembly. The second resolution—moved by Mr Alexander, and seconded by Mr Pellatt—contained a clause to the effect that the meeting objected to the measure, the more because it was for the endowment of popery. To this Mr Davis, of Salter's hall, proposed, as an amendment, that that clause should be omitted; but the proposer of the original resolution agreed to the withdrawal of the objectionable part; and being again submitted, was carried unanimously, amid loud cheers.

TRACT No. 90.—The Hebdomadal Board at Oxford determined, on Monday last, after duly weighing the requisition, and its 541 names (so the numbers are reported to us), to proceed no further in the matter of No. 90. In coming to this conclusion—the only one, we should have thought, at which some persons, having the good of the church at heart, could have arrived—it is said that they were assisted by a hint from his Grace the Chancellor of the University.—*English Churchman*.

THE ROUND CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE.—The churchwardens have abandoned their appeal to the Privy Council, and the matter is now at rest for ever.

POSTSCRIPT.—The House of Commons was counted out yesterday. The Lords sat only for a short time. —The annual meeting of the members and friends of the National Complete Suffrage Union was held at Birmingham, on Monday. We shall give a report of the proceedings in our next number.—Mr Thomas Hood, the well-known humorous writer, expired on Saturday evening last.—At the Repeal Association, on Monday, the spirit of unconditional repeal was in the ascendant, and it was announced, that festivals and processions were to be held in various parts of the country—one at Tara.—Mr Grey [or rather Green] Porter sent in his resignation of membership, after having held it a fortnight. Mr O'Connell strongly denounced the Irish liberal members who refuse to join the repealers. Rent, £406.—The proceedings of the Council of the British Anti-state-church Association will be appropriately concluded by a great public meeting, this evening, at Finsbury chapel, when Dr Price will preside. Maynooth, and the *regium donum*, will form the principal topics of discussion.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour
English ..	3650	1880	1040			4310
Scotch						
Irish			415			
Foreign ..		4280	6560			

The price of wheat is the same as on Monday; oats are doing at a slight advance.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received several communications with reference to the anti-Maynooth agitation, one or two of which, had there not been an unusual pressure upon our columns, we should have inserted.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
For 7 lines....6s. 0d. | For 10 lines....6s. 0d.
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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1845.

WE beg to announce to our subscribers that we publish our usual supplementary numbers during the present month, to enable us to give reports of the anniversary meetings of the various religious and philanthropic societies. The second extra number will appear on Monday morning next, May 12th.

SUMMARY.

THE Maynooth agitation extends and deepens. The tone of feeling on the subject amongst dissenters is becoming practical. All eyes are now turned towards the next general election. The whigs are struck with terror, and perfectly confounded. An unprecedented number of them must calculate upon losing their seats. This is but the fitting reward for their conduct. The first question, however, which occurs, is, How are their places to be supplied? and to this question we are delighted to observe that the nonconforming body is deliberately framing a reply. We do not now refer to the tone of the Anti-Maynooth Conference, which we can only characterise as ferociously anti-papistical. We point rather to the general strain of speech which characterised the proceedings of dissenters at the public breakfast of the Three Denominations, and to the main inducement which operated upon the minds of those parties who have summoned a dissenting conference for the 20th inst. We must say that the shape which the agitation is assuming excites in us the most pleasing hopes for the future; and, whilst we should be amongst the last to encourage an expectation, that the measures now in progress will be attended with immediate success, we cannot but see in them, if faithfully carried out, the broad and sure foundation of a great and important change.

The sittings of the Anti-Maynooth Conference commenced on Wednesday, and terminated on Saturday. Before the close of the first day's proceedings, it was found that the majority of the delegates present refused to ratify the promise of liberty of speech held out by the Central Committee. At the evening sitting, a mere expression of sympathy with the wrongs under which the Irish people suffered, on the part of Mr Mursell of Leicester, called forth a storm of interruption and clamour which rendered it impossible to proceed. Subsequent appeals to the candour and fairness of the audience, and to the stipulations entered into by the committee, only increased the uproar. A number of delegates felt compelled, therefore, to retire from an assembly in which they were not permitted to express the grounds of their opposition to the Maynooth Endowment bill, whilst the "no popery" party were allowed the utmost latitude of speech in giving expression to their objections. This is real Irish reciprocity. The seceding delegates then assembled, and adopted the protest which appears elsewhere. A large number of the dissenting deputies remained members of the Conference until its close, content to sink all reference to their principles in their desire to preserve unanimity. As far, then, as the general tone of the Conference is concerned, it was essentially a demonstration against the Roman Catholic religion. It is impossible to read the report of its proceedings, without receiving that impression, and that alone. As we have referred to this topic at length in another column, it is unnecessary now to dwell upon it. Besides the measures adopted by the Conference for giving increased strength to the anti-Maynooth agitation, it was resolved to establish a great Protestant confederation throughout the country. The objects of this new organisation were not very clearly defined; but whatever they may be, we cannot see how any consistent dissenter can connect himself with such a movement, without compromising his principles. Whatever excuse there might have been, from the absence of any other organisation against the Maynooth bill, can no longer exist. Nonconformists have now an opportunity of righting themselves with the public, in the approaching Conference; and it will be their own fault if they are any longer misunderstood.

The Premier has not merely to face the deep-seated and general indignation of the English people; the very recipients of his boon, the parties to conciliate whom he has, according to his own account, sacrificed power and popularity, pronounce his grand healing measure "a sheer mock-

ery and insult," "the crumbs which are flung from the table of the rich glutton," a bribe "of three farthings a head." Such are the terms used by Dr Higgins, Roman Catholic bishop of Ardagh, in speaking of the Maynooth bill. John, archbishop of Tuam, is equally relentless in his condemnation of the measure. In a letter to Sir R. Peel he says, "If you wish to fill up the measure of Ireland's discontent, you could not adopt a more effectual plan than to add one more grievance to the monster evil under which Ireland has so long groaned, by way of balancing and supporting it on the opposite side, and thus saddling for ever with two oppressive state hierarchies and a starving people." Mr O'Connell and the repealers speak in similar language; and, encouraged by the cowardly motive which manifestly prompted the offer of this paltry bribe, they have re-commenced agitation with redoubled vigour. Sir R. Peel has taught them that he will yield anything to fear and expediency—nothing to justice; and they are taking him at his word. The Queen's visit to Ireland, which was to follow close upon "this message of peace," is all but abandoned; and the sagacious statesman who was to heal a nation's wrongs by administering an opiate, stands confessed to all the world as a political charlatan—the worthy chief of an "organised hypocrisy." Now, then, is the favourable juncture for the friends of civil and religious liberty in this country to come forward, and, in terms which cannot be misunderstood, express their sympathy with their Irish fellow-countrymen, and their readiness to assist in removing the greatest grievance under which they groan—the Protestant church establishment.

If we turn to parliament, the Maynooth question is the first to excite our attention. During the past week the bill has made some progress in the House of Commons. It has passed through committee, been reported, and now awaits the third reading, which is fixed for the 19th instant. On Friday night, while the bill was in committee, the House entered into a theological discussion regarding Maynooth college, the doctrines taught there, and the manner in which it was conducted. Sir R. Inglis, Mr Colquhoun, and other high church bigots, did not hesitate fully to express their views of "Romanism." Sir R. Peel was greatly scandalised, declaring that "of all the assemblies in the world that—a popular assembly, was the least fitted for discussing questions of religion." This is a singular sentiment, coming from the responsible head of a legislature which has managed to mix up religion with almost every public question that comes before it. Mr Hindley endeavoured, in vain, to defeat the measure, being supported by only fifty-two members, on his motion that the bill be read that day six months. On Monday night, Mr Crawford, in a sensible and convincing speech, moved his amendment, condemning all state endowments of religious sects. His speech was unanswered, unless Sir R. Inglis may be said to have met its arguments when he asserted that the church of England was not a sect. The discussion was short and the division early. Two hon. gentlemen supported the motion—Mr Duncombe and Mr Wakley, the members for Finsbury. Including Mr C. Hindley, the second teller, the motion received the support of four members. Such, dissenters of England, is the manner in which your principles are treated in a House, a large proportion of which is returned by your influence! Shall it continue? We trust your proceedings, during the next few weeks, will prove that you are resolved to wipe out the disgrace.

The past week has been signalised by an act of concession on the part of ministers. On Thursday, Mr Rutherford moved for leave to bring in a bill to abolish the test-declaration for lay professors in the universities of Glasgow. He pointed out the impolicy of allowing a new college, on an enlarged basis, to be established by the Free church of Scotland. The argument, or at least the fact, was decisive. Sir J. Graham, on the part of ministers, assented to the principle of the measure, and, after taking extraordinary pains to make out a special case, totally inapplicable to the English universities, gave a hesitating permission to its introduction. On the same day the Earl of Lincoln introduced bills for the inclosure and drainage of common and waste lands, of which we shall have further opportunity of speaking.

The House of Lords was on Friday night engaged with a long debate on the Earl of Powis's motion for the second reading of a bill to prevent the union of the sees of St Asaph and Bangor. It will be recollected that a similar motion was carried in the House of Lords during the last session, but was set aside by some legal difficulty. This year the noble earl was not so successful; the motion, although nearly unanimously supported by the bench of bishops, being negatived by a majority of 32. On Monday the Duke of Richmond moved a resolution similar to that brought forward by Mr Banks, in the House of Commons, on the subject of the auction duties, with the view of relieving the agricultural interest of some portion of its burdens. The motion was rejected by a majority of 18 in a thin House.

The crowded state of our columns this week obliges us to curtail our usual quantity of original matter, and merely to name, instead of comment upon, several other topics of interest. Such are the annual meeting of the Council of the British Anti-state-church Association, a report of which appears elsewhere—the Marlborough election—and the news from India.

A SPECK IN THE HORIZON.

WHAT is that we see, in the distance, shadowy, undefined, no bigger than a man's hand? Is it a mere exhalation, created by the fervour of temporary political passion? or is it the nucleus of a cloud, destined not many years hence to overspread the firmament, and to pour down upon this parched and cleaving land a fruitful shower? What is it? Hope and fear chase each other through our bosom, each pointing at it, and prognosticating in regard to it the complexion of the future. Will it presently vanish, or will it grow into a life-dropping reality? Ah! we know not. We are sure, if science did but in this instance lend her aid to nature, we might obtain a large blessing—but whether the favourable omen will ripen into a beneficial change, or pass away as a *mirage*, we will make the most of the hour, and work with as busy a joy as though there were not a single possibility of disappointment.

This Maynooth agitation, then, is beginning to run into the right practical shape. Men have almost ceased to think of influencing the existing House of Commons, and are turning their eyes, in eager inquiry, towards another general election. And the dissenters are at length brought to speak, to resolve, to act, in this matter. The last link which bound them to party is snapped. The dream of being able to effect changes of any value, by means of aristocratic churchmen, is over. Whigs, tories, and radicals, are looked upon with the same distrust. And now, at length, the nonconforming body, not yet out of bed, but awake and rubbing its eyes as though it meant to get up presently, asks itself sundry very pregnant questions, such as, "Why should we dance after the rich, or seek our representatives among the aristocracy, who care not a rush for us, except as they may weave us into a seat for men of their own order? What should we care for the triumph of this party over that? Why should we not set up anti-state-church principles, as the proper test of candidness, at the next election? Why should not our views be represented in parliament by some—a dozen, at least—religious, high-minded, and able nonconformists?" And to these questions waking dissenters have returned some very sturdy answers, and is thinking of the best steps to instant organisation. Surely, this is as it should be—for the beginning is the shortest way to the end.

Such being the state of things, we think we shall be pardoned if we strike in with the existing tone of thought and conversation, and, with a view to deepen impressions, the first faint appearances of which have given us such unwonted satisfaction, throw out a consideration or two, calculated, as we think, to mature a passing idea into a fixed and unchangeable resolve.

It is quite obvious, then, that, to earnest-hearted dissenters, and for all the purposes of religious liberty, the great political parties who now divide amongst themselves the representation of the empire, are one and the same. By whatever name they call themselves, their main object is directly contradictory of ours. It would be well for us to fix this truth indelibly upon our minds. In the hour of severe contest, we are very apt to take alarm at the bare possibility of displacing a whig by a tory—and, allowing our fears to be excited by past associations, we fancy that, wherever such an event takes place, a real calamity has befallen us. Now, the difference between the two sections of the aristocracy exists mainly in our own imagination—and, assuredly, unless we are prepared to consent to a reduplication of religious establishments, the whigs are decidedly the worse of the two. It comes, then, to this—we must adhere steadfastly to our own principles, irrespectively altogether of what may be the issue, or we must take part in promoting the triumph of our adversaries over our own cause. We once argued that the friends of freedom could only win by losing. The argument will no longer apply. We have nothing to lose. We are under no temptations to sacrifice principle to party. All parties have abandoned and betrayed us. By making "no state endowments of religion" the pivot of our votes at future elections, we risk nothing worth retaining. Come out of it what may, we cannot be damaged by our resolution. By putting in a Reform-club liberal, we gain nothing—by letting in a tory, we lose nothing. Our only chance consists in our own firmness of purpose.

We wish it, further, to be thoroughly understood, that the object of dissenters at the next election should be, not to obtain a liberal majority in the House of Commons, which no anxiety of theirs will be able to compass, but to secure for themselves a band of men, however small, qualified at once by

their integrity and their ability to represent the principles of nonconformists in parliament. It is useless for us, at present, to look upon it as our end to count votes with our opponents. But, with due organisation and arrangement, we may secure, what we now above all things need, a full interpretation of our own sentiments. By forming a nucleus of an anti-endowment party, pledged to pursue to the utmost the one object dear to our hearts, and by backing those whom we send to the House of Commons with all the out-door force which the dissenters possess, there can be but little doubt that, in the course of a year or two, the position of the anti-state-church section of the community would be marvelously altered for the better; and numbers of members of parliament, who now float about in a chaos of opinion for want of some fixed principle by which to guide and control their proceedings, would be compelled, from a mere regard to the tenure of their seats, to act in concert with out-and-out men. Whilst in general politics we should be no worse than we are, our position in respect to our distinctive principles would be incalculably better; and some few serious discussions—such is the power of truth—on the utter impotence of all state arrangements for the promotion of religion, carried as they would be by the press to every quarter of the empire, would speedily change the general hue of thought on the question of establishments, and would prepare the way for that legislative treatment of the subject which must, assuredly, forerun the final accomplishment of our grand purpose.

We hope, then, to see the attention of leading dissenters concentrated upon this method of giving extension to their principles. The Conference, which is about to assemble, will, we earnestly trust, adopt some practical measures for giving effect to such views. Meanwhile, we earnestly commend the whole question to the serious consideration of our friends. We ask them, with all earnestness of soul, to prepare themselves instantly for efficient organisation. We would not forestall the recommendations of the Conference, but we do trust that no lingering party affections will be found to interpose between the decisions of that Conference when announced, and the action which shall be taken upon them, in all parts of the empire, by professed nonconformists. We have arrived at a most momentous crisis of our history; and the safest course for dissenters to pursue is evidently the boldest and the most independent.

1835 AND 1845.—We extract the following striking parallel from the *Examiner* :—

PEEL IN A MINORITY. "If you are determined to pursue this course, let me usurp the functions of an useful office—an office that, in former times, was performed by a slave, but which may be assumed by a freeman in this important crisis, without any derogation from his character [hear, hear]. You talk of your supremacy—of your power to control the executive government; let me whisper in your ear, that although you are triumphant here—though you are enabled to fetter our measures in this House—yet the power you exercise does not extend without these walls with the intensity with which it operates within [great cheering]. We may be weak here; but this I tell you again respectfully, but with a firm conviction of its truth, that there is a public opinion which exists independent of majorities—which is not controlled by votes—which it is essentially necessary to possess—in addition to mere majorities in this House. I never felt more convinced than I do of this truth, that the public opinion will not sanction—it will with its submission, but it will not with its approbation, sanction—your efforts."

PEEL IN A MAJORITY. "Deeply do I regret the manifestation of public feeling on the subject in this country [hear, hear]. I will not say that I was prepared for it to the full extent in which it has exhibited itself [hear, hear]. The hon. gentleman who spoke last has referred to it, and has expressed an apprehension that the feeling between Ireland and this country may be exacerbated by what is now passing in England. I can only say for myself, that the manifestation of that feeling in this country—much as I respect public feeling—so far from inducing me to relax in the course I have adopted, imposes only additional obligations on me steadily to adhere to it [cheers]. I do not say this, undervaluing public opinion; I do not say it from any desire to run counter to public opinion, but I feel it absolutely necessary to prove to the Roman Catholics of Ireland, that the manifestations of the feelings referred to shall induce public men to swerve from the course which, at any rate, appears to have produced a kindly feeling among those in whose favour it has been adopted [cheers]."

THE INCOME-TAX AND THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.—The bill just introduced into the House of Lords by the Marquis of Normanby, "to extend the elective franchise to all persons paying the income-tax," has just been printed for their lordships' use. It consists of three clauses. The preamble recites the acts 2 and 3 Wm IV., c. 45 (the Reform Act), and the Income-tax acts, and then proceeds to state that, "for the purposes of a parliamentary constituency, a simple property test, of easy and universal application, is hereby established, which will include large classes of persons who, by reason of the present local limitations and peculiar definitions of property conferring the right to vote, are now denied that privilege; and that it is just that those who are called upon to pay a direct tax on property, and testing the existence of it, should have legislative voice in the election of members of the Commons' House of parliament." The

clauses then proceed to enact that every male person assessed to the income-tax shall, during the continuance of such tax, be entitled to vote at elections for members of parliament, and government officers duly authorised to collect the tax are to give certificates to those paying the same. The name of any person, also, who has been placed upon the list of voters is to be continued there during the existence of the act, unless he shall have ceased to be assessed.

PEEL'S BOON TO IRELAND.—The Irishman asks for money and bread, and house and land, for fixity of tenure, for the remission of his rent, of his tithe, his rate—in a word, for all kinds of substantial benefits, whatever his claim to them may happen to be. The conservative leader, who has often lavished his benevolences to no purpose, has learnt at last to be thrifty. He cannot afford to throw away any more money just now on so unprofitable a subject. So he bethinks himself of something that will stand in stead of money—his cheap benediction—a new grant to Maynooth. A few thousands will go very far in doctrine, but a very little way in food and clothing. What will not give the squalid multitude one mouthful of bacon a-piece, will find them all in the dignified luxury of an ecclesiastical college; just as sixpence is not much towards a dress, but will buy several yards of gaudy ribbon, or a showy ornament. On these principles has the Premier selected his keepsake for Ireland.—*Times*.

It is generally believed in well-informed circles that her Majesty will certainly visit Ireland about the latter end of July; and subsequently proceed to Germany for a short period.—*Morning Post*.

Prince Albert was entertained by the Merchant Tailors' company, on Thursday, at an elegant *déjeuner*, and received the honorary freedom of that ancient fraternity. He has also forwarded to the mechanics' Institution in Southampton buildings the sum of £20, in aid of the fund now collecting to increase the library of that institution.

We are glad to learn that Mr Brewin Grant, of Glasgow college, who obtained the prize for the second tract issued by the British Anti-state-church Association, has been very successful in the late examination; having obtained the degree of B.A., the first prize in the senior division of the Ethic class, the university silver medal for the best essay on "Poetic diction: its use and abuse by the orators," and another prize for the best essay on the difference between inductive and syllogistic reasoning.

THE SECRET OF THE INCOME TAX.—Lord Brougham said, on Tuesday, in the House of Lords—"As this auction duties' repeal was a consequence of the income tax, he would mention a circumstance connected with that tax which called for strong animadversion. A person who had occasion to buy some goods at a grocer's, had them wrapped up in a return which had been furnished by a professional gentleman, of his income. This sale of documents which it had been stated should be kept utterly secret from the public, was a gross violation of duty on the part of the department concerned in the sale." The noble lord mentioned another case, in which the return made by a merchant in the City had been divulged in a manner which might have proved ruinous to the party.

THOMAS CLARKSON, the veteran opponent of slavery, has issued a long and affectionate address "to the inhabitants of the northern states of America," reiterating several of the old reasons against the annexation of Texas. He advises the people of the north to petition Congress, stating, that as a body of foreigners are to be admitted into the union, that provision of the fundamental constitution which gives undue weight to the southern states, by allowing them to compute in their population (as the basis of representation) two-fifths of their slaves, ought to be altered.

WASTE.—It appears by a parliamentary return, moved for by Mr Ewart, that during the four years, 1840 to 1844, no less than 19,781 cwt of foreign butter had been destroyed in bond, by the admixture of tar.

Too BAD.—The following announcement has appeared in various papers :—

"The Rev. W. Dealtry, D.D., chancellor of the diocese, canon of the Cathedral church of Winchester, prebendary of Southwell, and rector of the parish of Clapham, Surrey, has been appointed, by the Lord Bishop of Winchester, to the Archdeaconry of Surrey, void by the elevation of the Venerable Samuel Wilberforce to the Deanery of Westminster."

Poor Dr Dealtry! We feel for him deeply. How will he ever get through the work which he will now have to do? He was already laden with four several offices in the church, and saddled with the obligation of being in three different places at once. He had to pray, preach, exhort, console, convert, and go about visiting the sick and doing good at Winchester, Southwell, and Clapham; besides all which, he had his chancellor's business to attend to. And now, in addition, an archdeaconry is clapped upon his shoulders. Really, this is working a willing horse to death. There is not, we are persuaded, a negro in all Kentucky fagged to the extent that Dr Dealtry will be. What has the poor clergyman done to deserve such treatment? How, we would wish to know, would the Bishop of Winchester like it himself? It is much more like a Turk than a bishop to make a fellow-creature toil in this way. We say it is a great deal too bad of his lordship, and recommend him to be more considerate in future. We shall be told that Dr Dealtry will be well paid for his labour. Yes—but what has that to do with the matter? What pay can compensate a man for exertions which must necessarily kill him?—*Punch*.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Agriculture, for relief of, 6.
County Courts, for establishment of, 1.
Education (Ireland), for removing restrictions on, 15.
Factories, for restricting labour in, 2.
Game Laws, for repeal of, 2.
Hill Coolies, against importation of, 7.
Insolvent Debtors act, for repeal of, 21.
Justices' Clerks bill, against, 2.
Lord's Day, for the better observance of, 5.
Maynooth College, against grant to, 705.
in favour of, 15.
Parochial Settlements bill, against, 26.
Public Houses, for diminishing the number of, 85.
Railway Trains, against running on the Lord's day, 24.
Schoolmasters (Scotland), for ameliorating their condition, 19.
St Asaph and Bangor Dioceses, against union of, 28.
Universities (Scotland), for abolition of tests, 5.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME.

Drainage of Lands bill.
Exchequer Bills (£9,379,600) bill.
Courts of Common Law Process bill.
Salmon Fisheries bill.
Merchant Seamen bill.
County Rates bill.
Universities of Scotland bill.
Commons Inclosure bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Canal Companies Tolls bill.
Carriers bill.
Exchequer Bills (£9,379,600) bill.
Banking (Scotland) bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Maynooth College bill.
Exchequer Bills (£9,379,600) bill.
Supply—£610,545 for victuals for seamen and marines.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Sheriffs (Wales) bill.
Calico Print Works bill.

DEBATES.

Thursday, May 1st.

ADMISSION TO SCOTCH UNIVERSITIES.

Mr RUTHERFURD moved for leave to introduce a bill to regulate the admission to the lay or secular chairs of the universities in Scotland. A similar bill had been rejected last year; but the circumstances have since changed. The law is at present regulated by two acts of the Scotch parliament: one, passed in 1609, required all office-bearers to sign the confession of faith; the other, passed in 1707, also required them to take the oath of allegiance. In none of the Scotch universities have those acts been uniformly enforced; and at Edinburgh they have been entirely in abeyance. The *Senatus Academicus* of Edinburgh are in favour of removing the restrictions; and a majority of the professors at Glasgow, St Andrews, and Aberdeen. He proposed to touch none but the chairs relating to science and literature, leaving untouched those connected with theology. He gave an urgent reason for now stirring in the matter. The propriety of founding a college had been recently mooted in the Free church; and, on one occasion, at a meeting of Free churchmen, it was thrown out that, perhaps, among their ranks, twenty persons might be found rich enough to give £1,000 each, for the purpose of founding such college, which, it was said, would be better than calling upon the poorer portion of their congregations to subscribe. The amount had been raised in three weeks. Now, if this bill were not passed, and this college came into operation, the result would be, that persons designed for the ministry of the Free church would be educated there, and thus a sectarian character would be given to education in Scotland. It is a source of grievance that a large majority of his countrymen are precluded by law from the honour of becoming teachers in the universities.

Mr HOME DRUMMOND, who had disfavoured such a project twenty years ago, admitted the change of circumstances, and accepted the bill on the broad ground of a more liberal and enlightened policy.

Mr ACLAND advised that the bill should be introduced, and time given well to consider it.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM did not oppose the motion. He was desirous that the question should be considered as purely Scotch, and as quite disconnected with the English universities; but not without regard to the church of Scotland. The acts cited by Mr Rutherford were confirmed by the Act of Secularity, at the time of the Union; which debarred the British parliament from taking any step with reference to the established church of Scotland that would have the effect of derogating from this among other securities. At the same time, he must say that, if the alterations were to be made, the present is the proper time; and what had been stated about the contemplated new college, and the probable effect it would have in giving a sectarian turn to education in Scotland, weighed strongly with him. There appears to be a concurrent desire that the test should be abolished. Without, therefore, pledging himself to ulterior steps, he would consent to the introduction of the bill, on the understanding that Mr Rutherford would not press the second reading until the people of Scotland should have had full time to express an opinion upon it.

Mr FOX MAULE highly approved of the course taken by Sir James Graham, as tending to heal many of the differences which unhappily prevail in Scotland on the subject of the proposed measure.

Leave was given to bring in the bill.

INCLOSURE AND DRAINAGE OF COMMON AND WASTE LANDS.

The Earl of LINCOLN moved for leave to bring in a bill to facilitate the enclosure of commons and waste lands in England and Wales; and, in so doing, paid a compliment to Lord Worsley for his exertions in maturing a bill on this subject during the last two sessions. He then proceeded to inform the House

of the details in which his bill differed from that of Lord Worsley. He proposed that the Secretary of State should have the power of appointing three commissioners, one to be paid, and the other two to be unpaid. He proposed that the lands to be enclosed should be divided into three classes, of which one class, being mixed commonable lands, the property of individuals, should be divided by the commissioners, without the intervention of parliament. As to the other classes of lands, he proposed that the commissioners should have no power of authorising their inclosure without the intervention of parliament. They would be empowered to make due inquiries into the propriety of enclosing the waste and commonable lands intended for enclosure; they would embody their opinions in a report, which would be laid in the first instance before the Secretary of State, and would afterwards be laid by him before parliament. Whatever inclosures they might recommend to be made during the year antecedent to the meeting of parliament would be embodied by them in that report, and an annual bill would then be introduced, containing all those enclosures, which would thus attract more of the notice of parliament, and would save great expense to the parties interested in them. The commissioners would also be directed to make a special report as to the places of recreation to be set apart for the labouring classes. His bill would exclude village greens from its operation, but would enable the commissioners to make provisions for their better fencing, draining, and preservation. It would also authorise the commissioners to make allotments for the use of the inhabitants in proportion to the numbers and the space of ground to be inclosed. The tendency of these alterations was all in favour of the poor, and, if the bill were passed in the spirit in which it had been conceived, it would be advantageous, not only to the landlords, whose property it would improve, but also to the labouring classes, to whom it would afford increased employment and increased means of profitable labour and recreation.

After a few words from Mr WILLIAMS, Mr PARKER, and Mr AGLIONBY, leave was given to bring in the bill.

The Earl of LINCOLN then obtained leave to bring in a bill to facilitate the draining of land in England and Wales. It was founded on the same principle, but was not so expensive in its operation, as that proposed last year by Mr Pusey.

This bill, as well as the former, was then brought in and read a first time.

Friday, May 2nd.

MAYNOOTH ENDOWMENT BILL.

Sir R. PEEL having moved the order of the day for going into committee on this bill,

Mr HINDLEY said he hoped that the government would not proceed any further with this bill. It had excited such dissatisfaction throughout Great Britain, that 1,200 persons had come up to London, from every part of it, to enter their protest against it. He, therefore, recommended the Premier to appeal to the country before he proceeded further with it. He read the letter of Dr Higgins (Roman Catholic Bishop of Ardagh), to show that it would neither conciliate the clergy nor the people of Ireland. Considering the ferment which it had raised in England, and the mode in which it had been received in Ireland, he felt it to be his duty to move that the House would not resolve itself into a committee on this bill till this day six months.

Colonel SIBTHORP seconded the amendment. He said that, on Friday last, the number of signatures subscribed to the petitions against this bill was 918,000; and he had no doubt that it would be doubled before the bill reached the stage of the third reading. The first virtue of a minister was consistency, but Sir R. Peel had grossly deceived and betrayed all parties who had looked up to him as a protector and friend; and, although he knew not where to look for his successor, the sooner he resigned office the better [great laughter].

Mr PLUMPTRE advised Sir R. Peel to withdraw his bill, and said that, if he did not, he must resist its progress again, as he had resisted it before.

Colonel VERNER asserted that the Protestants of Ireland were averse to the measure; Mr REDINGTON, that they were not.

Sir R. PEEL said it was his firm determination to persevere with the bill; but Mr Plumtre had no right, on that account, to say that he intended to force it upon the House. He deliberately repeated his former assertion, that much less opposition to this measure had been manifested by the Protestants of Ireland than by the Protestants of England; and he now added that their conduct had generated a kindly feeling towards them among the Roman Catholics of Ireland. He then read to the House a declaration signed by the Protestant and Roman Catholic landowners in the county of Galway, in which they stated their satisfaction at this increased grant to the college of Maynooth. Among the signatures were those of thirty-four justices of the peace, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Galway.

After some further discussion, in which Sir R. INGLIS and other hon. members took part, the House divided, and the motion was agreed to by a majority of 160 to 52.

The House then went into committee on the bill.

On the first clause being read, Sir R. INGLIS suggested as an amendment that the trusteeship of the college of Maynooth should be vested in the board of charitable bequests. Sir R. PEEL objected to any transfer of the trust from the regular trustees to a board which had been constituted for totally different purposes. It would only tend to throw suspicion on the bill without their obtaining any corresponding advantage. The clause was then agreed to.

On clause 2 being read, Sir J. HANMER moved an

amendment to omit all the words from the clause which limited the trustees of Maynooth college in taking any real property with which it might be desired voluntarily to endow them. The hon. baronet referred at some length to the origin and intent of the acts of mortmain, and traced their progress down to the present time. He concluded that their operation never was intended to extend to Ireland or the colonies, and he thought it due to their Roman Catholic brethren that they should be relieved from any conditions of the sort which prevented liberal and voluntary endowments to Maynooth. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for Ireland objected to the amendment. In the statute of 1808, amending the Maynooth act, there was an enabling clause to take property to the amount of £1,000, but there was also a prohibitory clause against taking property to any greater value. Power was, however, reserved to the crown in the present bill to permit the college to avail itself of larger endowments. After some further discussion the amendment was withdrawn.

Mr S. O'BRIEN then moved as an amendment the introduction of the word "thirty" instead of "three," to enable the college to acquire landed property to the amount of £30,000 instead of £3,000. On a division the amendment was negatived by 100 to 32, and the clause was then agreed to.

The 4th and 17th clauses, relating to the salaries of professors, &c., and to the visitation of the college, occasioned fiercer contest. Mr PLUMPTRE quoted passages from class-books declaring theft and lying not always mortal sins; and in certain cases defining sixty pence or even ten pence as the boundary above which theft becomes a mortal sin. Mr WYSE retaliated with a quotation from Luther, that Judas was a traitor by the will of God; and from Mr HILL, a follower of Wesley, that "murder and adultery do not hurt the children of the elect, but work for their good: their sins may displease God, but their persons are always acceptable to Him." Mr M. J. O'CONNELL said that whatever instruction the Roman Catholics might give their flocks in Ireland, they had not left them, as the Protestant clergy had left their works, in the neighbourhood of the cathedral town in the county which Mr Plumtre represented, so totally uninstructed as to fall down and worship a maniac as the Messiah. Mr PIGOTT read the evidence of the president, vice-president, and dean of the college of Maynooth, for the purpose of showing that they all stated that ultramontane doctrines were not taught in the college of Maynooth. Mr COLQUHOUN pointed out the discrepancy which existed between the rest of the evidence in the report of 1827, and the declaration of those three officers. Sir ROBERT PEEL deprecated these discussions, as unsuitable to an assembly like the House of Commons:—

Of all assemblies in the world, that, a popular assembly, was the least fitted for discussing questions of religion [hear, hear].

He showed that particular passages cannot be taken as settling the doctrines of any church:—

He would remind the hon. member for Kent, that in the course of the evidence given before the committee on Maynooth education, the following question was put to one of the professors at Maynooth:—"Are you aware that Dr Paley, in his *Moral Philosophy*, in treating of promise, undertakes to show that promises are not binding where the performance is impossible; that promises are not binding where the performance is unlawful; that promises are not binding where they contradict a former promise; that promises are not binding which are released by the promisee; and that erroneous promises are not binding in certain cases?" Now, if these sentences had been read without the name of Dr Paley being mentioned, would they not have been apt to produce a wrong impression? But what was the answer to this question? "I have not read that work, but all those principles are the same as ours exactly"—these being the principles of Dr Paley [hear, hear].

Eventually, all the clauses passed.

A clause, founded on the resolution of the committee of the whole House, authorising the payment of the £30,000 for building, and the needful sums for salaries, out of the consolidated fund, was resisted by Mr LAW; but affirmed by 210 to 88.

On the next clause, which provides that the annual sums payable by this act should be charged on the consolidated fund, Mr LAW refused to divide, and by so doing excited the anger of Mr HINDLEY, who declared that he could no longer put any faith in the false fire from Cambridge.

The CHAIRMAN then reported progress, and the House resumed, and the report was ordered to be received on Monday.

Monday, May 5th.

PRIVATE COMMITTEES—IRISH MEMBERS.

A curious conversation arose on the subject of the attendance of members on committees. Mr Bickham Escott was reported, at the bar, as having absented himself from a railway committee, to serve on which he had been nominated by the committee of selection. Mr Escott, being present, explained that his absence was caused by his decided opinion that his attendance on two public committees was quite sufficient to absorb his time, without adding to these duties and his ordinary parliamentary ones, the additional labour of a third committee. He was willing to obey the House in undertaking any duties within the compass of his physical ability.

A lively debate followed, during which Mr P. M. STEWART intimated that, in addition to the "compensative repose" of attendance on two public committees, he had been made chairman of a committee to which was referred a group of ten railway bills, with twenty lawyers! A marked reference was also made to the absence of the Irish members, and a hope was expressed that if attendance on these committees was to be rendered strictly compulsory, the House would provide for the attendance of the voluntary absentees, either by a "call" of the House

or other means; and in reply to these remarks, which were made by Mr Hume, Lord John Russell, and Lord Castlereagh, it was intimated by Lord GRANVILLE SOMERSET, that any member—English, Scotch, or Irish—absenting himself from any committee on which he might be nominated would be committed to the custody of the Sergeant-at-arms. Mr Hume then intimated that he would move a "call of the House" on Friday; and the discussion terminated by a vote of the House without a division, directing Mr B. Escott to attend the committee on the following day.

THE MAYNOOTH BILL AND RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS.

On the motion that the amendment to the report be agreed to—

Mr SHARMAN CRAWFORD moved the resolutions of which he had given notice. He brought them forward in no feeling of hostility to the government. He admitted this measure was framed in a good spirit, and he particularly hailed it as the prelude to other measures which he trusted would be beneficial to Ireland. But as one who wished to see the voluntary principle universally adopted, he was bound to oppose it. This grant must be taken but as the commencement of other grants, and to other dissenting bodies. The ground of his hostility to it, and of those whose petitions he had presented, was, an objection to every state grant for religious purposes. They were a violation of the rights of conscience, by asking a man to pay for a religion of which he did not approve. There were taxes which the state had a right to levy for the enforcement of the laws and for the administration of justice; but they should bear in mind the maxim, "Render unto Cæsar," &c. His resolution said that state establishments were unfavourable to the spread of religious truth. If they looked to the operation of the established church in England and Ireland, they could judge whether it succeeded in spreading religion. Though it had ample means, the dissenters were invading its domain with powerful strides, which could not be resisted. It was evident that these churches were distracted by dissensions, and were not able to assert what their religions were. They had presented petitions to that House, which showed they were willing to undergo the greatest degradation to which such churches could submit. For what did they pray? That that House, composed of persons of all sects and persuasions, should settle such questions, as whether a minister should wear a black or white surplice, whether there should be a stone altar or a table, and whether articles of the rubric should remain as they were. How could such differences be settled but by a body appointed by the church itself? He really wondered how the honourable baronet, the member for Oxford, with his high church principles, could consent to have that House asked to define his faith. It was not by laws or by parliament that religious principles could be extended. The minister who was hired by the state was more anxious to serve the state than his religion. If churches were supported by the state, full accommodation should be provided in them for all classes; but no adequate provision was made, by the churches at present endowed or established, for the instruction of the poorer classes. If we looked to the records of history since the reformation, we should find that the clergy of the state churches had universally acted against the civil rights of the people. With those views, he was of opinion that all religious establishments were against the rights of conscience, prevented the diffusion of truth, were hostile to faith, were unjust, and impolitic. He therefore submitted to the House a declaration against all kinds of state endowments—against all connexion between the church and state; but the latter portion went to preserve vested rights. Those who had at the present time emoluments arising from benefices possessed by them, he should wish to protect. He should propose a bill, therefore, enacting that all the proceeds arising from tithes, and property of all kinds devoted to ecclesiastical endowments, should be paid into the consolidated fund, and vested in the hands of commissioners, to be by them distributed for the general benefit of all religious persuasions, as parliament should direct. His opposition to the Maynooth grant arose from his adherence to the voluntary principle, which he had advocated on former occasions. It was his conviction that the Irish church could not stand, unless it was supported by grants and payments to other religious bodies; and, as he was most anxious that no new grant should be made to any such body, either in England or Ireland, he felt called upon to give this grant his opposition. He believed there was at present a disposition in the leaders on the other side of the channel to deal unfairly with the English people in reference to this subject. There might be a hostile disposition in some of the English people towards their Roman Catholic fellow subjects; but by far the greater part of those who opposed it did so on the principle of opposition to state endowments, and from a fear that this grant for the education of the Irish priests would be extended to larger and more important objects. He thought religious monopoly was a great grievance, like every other description of monopoly. The principle on which he wished to act was that of a perfect equality of footing to all sects; he wished that none should have an advantage over the other, and that no provision should be made by the state for the propagation of any form of religious opinion. The honourable member concluded by moving, as an amendment, "That any provision for the separate or exclusive education of any particular religious denomination, or for the

support or endowment of any religious sect or sects by state grants, or funds raised by compulsory assessment, whether under the name of tithes, rents, cesses, taxes, *regium donum*, or under any other name or form whatever, is a violation of the rights of conscience, detrimental to religious truth, and dangerous to civil and religious freedom; and that all such establishments, grants, or endowments, now in existence in the United Kingdom, ought to be discontinued with as little delay as may be consistent with a due regard to the rights of those who have life interests in the same."

Mr HINDLEY seconded the amendment.

Mr WILLIAMS observed, that the proposition of Mr S. Crawford was of so extensive a character, that it ought to have been brought forward as a substantive motion, and not as an amendment to another bill. Had Mr S. Crawford confined his amendment to the first clause of it, he could have supported it; but the second clause of it embraced too much, and therefore he must oppose it altogether. He then called the attention of the House to the vast amount of public money which had been expended of late years on the established church of England, paid out of the pockets of the whole people:—

£1,500,000 was paid for the building of new churches. £1,000,000 had been taken out of the public funds, on an understanding that it was to be repaid, to pay off the arrears of tithes to the clergy. But it had not been repaid. Then, looking to the expenditure on the colonies since 1826, upwards of £400,000 had been paid out of the public taxes to our West India islands. We were maintaining bishops and clergy of the church, at the public expense, in almost all our colonies. £11,600 had been voted for the clergy in Canada. The hon. baronet, the member for Oxford University, had opposed this bill on the distinct avowal of his hostility to the Catholic religion. Why, then, did not that hon. baronet object to the giving of £1,000 a year to the Roman Catholic bishop of Quebec, and £70 a year to the Roman Catholic bishop of Newfoundland? Was it because the rest of the £11,600 a year was given to the clergy of the established church? Grants of money for the support of the church, out of the public money, were spread over the whole of the estimates. They were to be called on that night to vote £109 for expenses for entertaining the Bishop of Gibraltar on board one of her Majesty's steam-vessels, on his passage from Malta to Lisbon. There were also other sums, amounting to £310, towards which the Roman Catholics and dissenters had to pay, for expenses in conveying the same bishop on other excursions (of pleasure, he fancied); and very pleasant excursions no doubt they were. Then, again, there was an item of £147 for expenses in entertaining the Bishop of Antigua on board her Majesty's sloop of war. He found £180 put down for the Bishop of Barbadoes, whose salary was £4,000 a year.

When vast sums to this amount were expended on the church of England at home and abroad, Sir R. Inglis ought to have seen the policy of not drawing the string too tight with respect to the clergy of other churches. When Sir R. Inglis opposed thus strenuously the grant of £17,000 a year to the college of Maynooth, he necessarily called the attention of the dissenters to the large sums paid to the church of England.

Sir R. INGLIS did not, and could not, defend the imposition of a tax upon the people of England for the support of any sect; but he held that the church of England was not a sect; that it had a right, both at home and abroad, to be maintained by the state; and that no sect had any such right. He insisted that he was justified in supporting the payment of £1,000 a year to the Roman Catholic bishop of Quebec, inasmuch as we had taken possession of Canada eighty years ago under a treaty, by which we bound ourselves to maintain the Roman Catholic religion in that country. He could not disturb a solemn treaty made eighty years ago; but, on the other hand, he could not consent to make now, for the first time, an endowment of the Roman Catholic religion in her Majesty's dominions at home. He then proceeded to show the fallacy and danger of the voluntary principle, and to oppose the abstract proposition brought forward by Mr S. Crawford.

Dr BOWRING said that the argument used by Sir R. Inglis resolved itself into this:—"Truth I am, truth I represent; error is around me on every side. I will pay all who will follow me as the truth, and I will pay no one else." After ridiculing this notion, he proceeded to observe that he could not support the abstract proposition of Mr S. Crawford, because it was meant to impede the grant to the college of Maynooth. Though he was acting in opposition to the wishes of many of his constituents, he must support this bill, because it was a step in the right direction, and the commencement of a new course of conciliatory legislation towards Ireland.

Colonel JOHNSON regretted that Mr S. Crawford had so worded his motion that he could not support it. His objection to this grant to the college of Maynooth rested upon the source from which it came; if it were double its amount, and were taken from the ecclesiastical property of Ireland, he should give it his most cordial assent.

Mr HUME looked upon this increased grant to Maynooth as a grant to an educational institution, and not as an endowment of the Roman Catholic church. He supported the bill with great satisfaction; for he was a friend to education and was ready to afford it to Christians of every denomination. He then attacked the dissenting body for the opposition which it had given to this measure, and expressed his regret that those who had obtained their own emancipation from the fetters of the test and corporation acts by the petitions and exertions of the Roman Catholics, should now turn round against them, should assail them with the utmost virulence, and should use every influence in their power to prevent them from receiving an act of justice.

Sir ROBERT PEEL stated that there was nothing which necessarily rendered the college of Maynooth

exclusively an ecclesiastical institution. It was originally contemplated as a lay school; and the Catholic body, through Mr Grattan, had petitioned against any exclusive character being given to it. Mr Burke, arguing that a priest, educated for a life of celibacy at an institution where it might be treated with ridicule amongst the students generally, would thereby have his moral training deteriorated, prevailed; and his views were adopted by the legislature. He did not notice Mr Crawford's amendment.

Mr HINDLEY defended the dissenting body from the attack made upon it by Mr Hume. He denied that the dissenters had acted with ingratitude towards the Roman Catholics of Ireland. If the Roman Catholics of Ireland had assisted the dissenters of England to obtain the repeal of the test and corporation acts, the dissenters, in return, had assisted the Roman Catholics to obtain the repeal of the penal laws. He then entered into an elaborate defence of the voluntary principle, and observed that, though, if Mr S. Crawford and himself were appointed tellers, they might only find Mr T. Duncombe along with them in the lobby, that would not prevent him from dividing in favour of a principle which he felt in his conscience to be correct, and which he expected to see triumphant before the lapse of many years.

The House then divided, when there appeared—for the amendment, 2; against it, 141: majority against it, 139.

The report was then brought up and agreed to.

SUPPLY.

The House went into a committee of supply on the proposal of a grant of £610,545, for the purpose of defraying the charge of purchasing provisions and victualing stores for the seamen and marines to be employed during the next year, a lively discussion sprang up between Lord PALMERSTON and Sir R. PEEL respecting the illegal detention of a negro slave at Surinam, in consequence of an incorrect opinion of the law officer of the Crown at Surinam. It was terminated by Sir R. PEEL promising that the case of the negro should undergo re-consideration, and that he should not be damaged by anything which had hitherto occurred. The discussion also extended to the best mode of checking the slave trade in Cuba and Brazil, and of putting it down on the coast of Africa by a combined effort on the part of France and England to destroy the barracoons, which appeared both to Lord PALMERSTON and Sir ROBERT PEEL a very desirable measure.

The committee then proceeded, upon the same grant, to discuss almost every imaginable topic connected with the navy, but more particularly the best mode of manning our ships, and of providing for the defence of our coast in case of a war. The principal speakers were Sir G. COCKBURN, Sir C. NAPIER, Captain BERKELEY, Captain PHELPS, Mr C. WOOD, Mr SYDNEY HERBERT, and Admiral BOWLES. The vote was at length agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN then reported progress.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CONDITION OF THE LABOURING CLASSES.—The following are the resolutions relative to the condition of the labouring classes, which Lord John Russell has laid on the table of the House of Commons, and which he will move, in accordance with the notice given some time back:—

1. That the present state of political tranquillity, and the recent revival of trade, afford to this House a favourable opportunity to consider of such measures as may tend permanently to improve the condition of the labouring classes.
2. That those laws which impose duties usually called protective tend to impair the efficiency of labour, to restrict the free interchange of commodities, and to impose on the people unnecessary taxation.
3. That the present corn law tends to check improvements in agriculture, produces uncertainty in all farming speculations, and holds out to the owners and occupiers of land prospects of special advantage which it fails to secure.
4. That this House will take the said laws into consideration, with a view to such cautious and deliberate arrangements as may be most beneficial to all classes of her Majesty's subjects.
5. That the freedom of industry would be promoted by a careful revision of the law of parochial settlement which now prevails in England and Wales.
6. That a systematic plan of colonisation would partially relieve those districts of the country where the deficiency of employment has been most injurious to the labourers in husbandry.
7. That the improvements made of late years in the education of the people, as well as its more general diffusion, have been seen with satisfaction by this House.
8. That this House will be ready to give its support to measures founded on liberal and comprehensive principles, which may be conducive to the further extension of religious and moral instruction.
9. That a humble address be presented to her Majesty to lay the foregoing resolutions before her Majesty.

On Wednesday evening Mr SHARMAN CRAWFORD gave notice, that when the resolutions were brought before the House, he should propose to strike out the 4th, 5th, and 6th, and so to alter the first that it will stand thus:—

1. "That the present state of political tranquillity, and the recent revival of trade, afford to this House a favourable opportunity to give immediate attention to the claims so repeatedly urged in the petitions of the people for the extension of the parliamentary suffrage, as well as to consider of such measures as may tend permanently to improve the condition of the labouring classes."

Lord John Russell is to move his resolutions on the 26th inst.

THE MAYNOOTH ENDOWMENT BILL.—On Wednesday Mr DUNCOMBE gave notice, that in the event of the Maynooth bill being read a third time, it was his intention to move a clause limiting its operation for three years. On the same evening Sir R. PEEL

announced, that the third reading of the bill would be moved on the 19th inst.

ACADEMICAL EDUCATION IN IRELAND.—Sir R. PEEL will state the nature of his measure on this subject on Friday next.

CATHOLIC RELIEF BILL.—On Wednesday Mr WATSON moved the second reading of his Roman Catholic Relief bill; but Sir JAMES GRAHAM urged its postponement, as the subject was under the consideration of the Criminal Law Commissioners. This suggestion was acceded to.

ARRESTMENT OF WAGES IN SCOTLAND.—Mr T. DUNCOMBE had a bill to assimilate the law relating to the arrestment of workpeople's wages for debt in Scotland to that in England and Ireland, the second reading of which stood for Wednesday. On that day, however, Mr Duncombe stated, that many difficulties existed; and several persons who had come up from Scotland offered to supply him with a more practical measure, providing for the arrestment of half the wages, and facilitating the introduction of a clause to prevent the truck system: he therefore begged to withdraw his bill. The Lord Advocate and Sir JAMES GRAHAM admitted the necessity of altering the law in Scotland, but doubted the feasibility of the plan suggested. Mr DUNCOMBE wished that government would take the subject into their own hands. The order for the second reading was discharged.

LANDS CLAUSES CONSOLIDATION (RAILWAY) BILL.—In the House of Commons, on Thursday night, considerable interest was excited by the discovery, that, in the Railway Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) bill, during its passage through the Commons at a late hour of the night, an hon. member had introduced a clause without being printed, and without any discussion. The object of the clause was to compel railway companies to give compensation where turnpike trusts might happen to sustain injury in consequence of their construction. The bill passed both houses, and was then brought back to the House of Commons to consider of the Lords' amendments. After some discussion, the Lord Advocate said he had not properly understood the bearing of the clause on its introduction, and would, therefore, withdraw the bill in order that it might be re-introduced, when the House would have the opportunity of discussing the clause in question, if it should be retained in the new bill.

NEW ZEALAND.—Mr C. BULLER, who had a notice of motion for Tuesday (yesterday) for a committee of the whole House, to consider the affairs of New Zealand, stated that he understood that a proposition for settling the affairs of the colony was under the consideration of the government, and, under these circumstances, he thought it best to withdraw his motion.

THE CHURCH DISPUTES.—In answer to Mr MANGLES, on Friday, Sir R. PEEL said he was not prepared to give any assurance that the government meant to interfere for the adjustment of the differences at present existing in the church of England on the subject of certain obsolete usages and ceremonies.

EJECTMENT SYSTEM (SCOTLAND).—On Friday night, Mr FOX MAULE called the attention of the Home Secretary to a paragraph which he had read that day in a northern newspaper, in which it was stated, that upon an estate in the county of Ross, notices of ejectment had been recently served on 400 tenants, and the average number in the family of each being five persons, it followed that 2,000 persons would, under this process, be compelled suddenly to quit their dwellings. Sir J. GRAHAM had no power to interfere, but in a marked manner condemned such tyrannical conduct on the part of landlords.

RECALL OF CAPTAIN FITZROY.—On Monday, in answer to Captain ROUS, Mr HOPE intimated that Captain Fitzroy had been superseded in the governorship of New Zealand, but not on any grounds connected with the charges of the New Zealand Company, or affecting his personal honour or character.

PUBLIC BUSINESS.—In answer to Mr E. B. ROCHE, Sir ROBERT PEEL intimated that the actual Irish business before the House precluded him from naming a day when he will be able to introduce the Irish Registration Bill. On Friday Sir JAMES GRAHAM will state the nature of the measure relating to academical education; and the Maynooth and Bank bills would occupy all their spare time up to the beginning of June.

RAILWAYS.—Mr FRENCH, at an early period of the evening, being supported by Sir THOMAS FREMANTLE, obtained leave for the Irish Great Western railway (Dublin to Galway) "to proceed," in opposition to the decision of the "standing orders" committee.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, May 2nd.

THE GRANT TO MAYNOOTH.—Petitions against the increased grant to Maynooth were presented by the Earl of Rosebery, the Earl of Haddington, Lord Campbell, Lord Kenyon, the Bishop of Salisbury, and the Bishop of Cashel. The Bishop of St David's presented a petition from Carmarthen in favour of the grant. The Marquis of Breadalbane presented 82 petitions, chiefly from Scotland, signed by 12,604 members of the Free Church, against the increased grant to Maynooth. In presenting the petitions, the noble marquis said—

He regretted to hear that, however much this measure was opposed to the feelings and opinions of the people, still her Majesty's government were determined to carry it through parliament. He must say, he thought such a declaration most unwise and unconstitutional; whether it was consonant with the feelings and opinions of the country or not, they were determined to carry it, because they had a majority in the other house, and, he feared, because they had a majority in their lordships' house also.

The Duke of WELLINGTON: I must say a few words in reply to the noble marquis, because I believe no expression has fallen from anybody connected with her Majesty's government except of a determination to take the sense of Parliament [hear, hear] on the question; that is the regular constitutional course [cheers]; and that is the determination of her Majesty's government [cheers].

Lord BROUGHAM said it was a great mistake—he did not say a misrepresentation, but a very grievous mistake—to suppose that the whole country thought in one way, because there was a number of petitions presented; those who were in favour of the measure did not petition at all.

TAWELL'S CONFESSION.—A discussion then took place on the refusal of Mr Cox, chaplain of Aylesbury gaol, to deliver Tawell's confession to the magistrates, on the ground that it was a privileged communication to him in his sacred character. The Duke of BUCKINGHAM asked, if chaplains are authorised to give such refusal? The Duke of WELLINGTON, individually, thought that the law prohibited the disclosure required, except in cases of high treason. This Lord CAMPBELL denied. But in the conversation, the balance of opinion among the peers, lay, clerical, and legal, was strongly with Mr Cox. The talk came to nothing; except the observation by Lord STANLEY, that if the magistrates were dissatisfied with Mr Cox, they have the power, if they choose, to dismiss him.

WELSH BISHOPRICS.

The Earl of POWIS moved the second reading of his bill to repeal that part of the act of the 5th and 6th William IV. which provided for the union of the sees of St Asaph and Bangor; his bill decreeing the separate continuance of those sees, and the erection of the bishopric of Manchester; which in the original act is contingent on the amalgamation of the Welsh sees. Lord Powis abstained from retracing the ground which he has traversed on introducing his bill in two previous years; and briefly urged the injury to the inhabitants of the two dioceses, numbering 396,000, and dwelling in a district more difficult of communication than any other part of the country, by enlarging the extent of the bishopric, and giving it only one instead of two bishops.

The Duke of WELLINGTON moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months. He defended the arrangement now sought to be repealed; and in doing so referred for his authority to the reports of the ecclesiastical commissioners—the heads of the church, whose object had been to render the church more efficient and to win for it greater affection from the people. The House could not now go back to alter the measure of William IV., which was unopposed in that House. By preventing the union of the two sees, the operation of that part of the act which provides for establishing the bishopric of Manchester would be suspended. The two sees of St Asaph and Bangor will benefit by the arrangement; for while the extinction of the bishopric of Bangor will contribute £4,750 to the ecclesiastical fund, the united see will obtain £3,900 from the extinction of the sinecure rectories, or, including other allowances from the ecclesiastical fund, £5,000; which will go to provide for larger clerical salaries and three additional archdeacons, thus greatly increasing the efficiency of the clergy.

The Bishop of BANGOR called upon the House to listen to the prayers of the thousands who had petitioned against the extinction of a see more ancient than even that of Canterbury, and strongly supported the bill.

Lord WINCHILSEA was anxious that more bishops should be created, and thought that it would be no derogation of their dignity if they took their seats as peers by rotation.

Lord MONTEAGLE referred to the prevalence of dissent in Wales as a proof that the parochial had been sacrificed to the episcopal system, and preferred to consider the efficiency, rather than the antiquity, of the two sees in question:—

Whatever claims the church might have to their regard, it was still to be reckoned as a great misfortune that dissent had increased to such an extent in North Wales. In no part of the United Kingdom had dissent made such progress as in the Principality. A century ago there were only thirty-five dissenting chapels in the whole of Wales; in 1810, there were 954 chapels; and in 1832, 1428. He believed no one acquainted with the Principality would contradict him, when he said that at the present moment the church in Wales was the church of the minority of the people.

He went into some details of the hardships endured by the Welsh clergy, and concluded by moving the resolution of which he had given notice, to the effect that the impropriations which form a large proportion of the property of the two bishoprics should be applied to the augmentation of poor and populous vicarages.

Lord BROUGHAM announced his intention of opposing the bill; and the Bishop of SALISBURY combated Lord Brougham's proposal with respect to impropriate tithes. The petitions against the annexation of the dioceses had, he believed, been the result of a conviction, almost universal among the clergy, that there was a great and increasing want of ecclesiastical superintendence; and he trusted that the number of bishops would be augmented in proportion to our increasing population. The example of the American church proved the danger of the want of that episcopate which it was now sought to uphold, and was another evidence that the church should not "put her trust in princes," or in their advisers.

Lord STANLEY acknowledged the weight of authority against which the government had to contend, and the general expression of public feeling, but urged that the bill of Lord Powis was full of danger to the cause in which the prelates and the petitioners were so zealous. The church had, for several

years, been curtailing its superfluities, and had thus conciliated for itself much respect and esteem; but, if this just and moderate course were given up, and an increase of political power attempted, the consequences would be most fatal to its character and influence:—

My lords, I trust the right rev. bench will forgive me if I speak plainly and frankly, for this is a question upon which one must speak out. There are many good and wise men—at all events, many religious and Christian men—who think it would be far better for the interests of religion that that right rev. bench had no place in this House. My lords, I am not of that opinion [hear, hear]; I value very highly the weight, and the influence, and the authority, which that bench gives to the proceedings of your lordships' House; and I value them not the less, and I express it not the less freely, when I know that I am about upon this occasion to encounter the opposition of a great portion of that bench; but I cannot conceal it from myself that the political advantage—the advantage to the state—which is gained by the presence of that right rev. bench (of whom I see so many now in your lordships' House), great as it is, is purchased by a certain degree of disadvantage in the abstraction from the duties of their dioceses which necessarily follows upon the discharge of their secular duties in this House [hear, hear].

The noble lord, at much length, proceeded to justify the recommendations of the Ecclesiastical Commission, one of the most important of which it was the object of this bill to set aside; and concluded by commending the subject to their lordships' attention, as involving the great political and religious interests of the country.

The Bishop of LONDON, as he had been one of the ecclesiastical commissioners, and had concurred in recommending the union of the two sees, had considerable difficulty in coming to a decision. He combated the proposition of Lord Stanley, that there should be no addition to the number of bishops, and asserted that not only was such an increase rendered necessary by the immense increase of population, but that the people estimated most highly the value and utility of the episcopal institution. As the question of the erection of a see of Manchester was not involved in the fate of the present bill, he should withdraw the opposition which, as an ecclesiastical commissioner, he should have offered.

Lord FITZWILLIAM opposed the bill, and Lord CARNARVON supported it.

On a division, the second reading of the bill was negatived by 129 to 97. Majority, 32.

Monday, May 6th.

Petitions against the Maynooth grant were presented by the Bishop of Chichester (who expressed his dissent from the petitions); Earl Brownlow, Earl Fitzwilliam, the Bishop of Gloucester, Lord Montagu, Lord Feversham, Lord Brougham, the Earl of Winchelsea (24), Viscount Combermere, and the Earl of St Germans.

The Duke of RICHMOND presented 160 petitions from places in Somersetshire, Wilts, and Sussex, praying that in any reduction of taxation the agricultural interest may not be lost sight of.

AUCTION DUTIES.

The Duke of RICHMOND, on the motion for going into committee on the Auction Duties bill, moved, as an amendment, that it be committed that day six months. In a speech of some length, he contended that the reduction was useless, as it threw away more than £300,000 without affording the slightest relief to the agricultural interest. His mode of relief was to lighten the county rate by one-half, and the poor-rates by 20 to 50 per cent., to be paid out of the consolidated fund, as some compensation for the burdens which, he contended, were laid every session on the country gentlemen, who would be too happy to leave to the Chancellor of the Exchequer the duty of watching over the expenditure of the county rates, contenting themselves with taking care of its administration.

The Earl of DALHOUSIE defended, at some length, the financial resources of the government; and after a debate, shared in by the Earl of MALMESBURY, Lord MONTEAGLE, the Earl of WINCHILSEA, Lord STANLEY, Lord BEAUMONT, and the Marquis of NORMANBY, a division took place, when the commitment of the bill was carried by 33 to 15.

The Auction Duties and the Customs Duties bills then passed through committee, and the other business being disposed of, the House adjourned.

It is confidently rumoured that, in addition to Lord Lonsdale, the Earl of Liverpool and the Marquis of Exeter have determined to resign their situations, and vote against the Maynooth bill in the House of Lords. The Earl of Lonsdale is postmaster-general; the Earl of Liverpool, lord steward of the household; and the Marquis of Exeter holds the chief office in Prince Albert's household.—*Globe*.

A report of the Registrar-general of births, marriages, and deaths, just published, shows the total number of deaths by violence, in England and Wales, in a given period of twelve months, to have been 3,884. Of these, 532 arose out of horse travelling, and 110 out of railway traveling. Of the 532, the number of travelers was 273; and of the 110, the number of travelers was 40; the remainder, in each instance, being servants.

THE DONKEY.—We all talk of the ass as the stupidest of the browsers of the field; yet, if one shuts up a donkey in the same enclosure with a half-dozen horses of the finest blood, and the party escape, it is infallibly the poor donkey that has led the way. It is he alone that penetrates the secrets of the bolt and the latch. Often we have stood at the side of a hedge, contemplating a whole troop of blood mares and their offspring, patiently waiting while the donkey was snuffing over a piece of work to which all but he felt themselves incompetent.—*Quarterly Review*.

General News.

FOREIGN.

AMERICA.

There is much apprehension of a collision between the United States and Mexico. The New York evening paper asserts, on what it declares to be authorised authority, that a war will take place.

The latest accounts from Texas speak of the annexation scheme as being generally popular in that country, and state that, on the receipt of intelligence of the passing of the bill by the United States congress, great rejoicings took place at Galveston; and a large public meeting was held there, at which resolutions in favour of annexation were unanimously passed. Whether these facts may be considered as indicative of the general feeling of the Texan people, we have no means of forming a satisfactory judgment. It is stated that England and France are making powerful and united efforts to induce the Texans to reject the measure adopted by the United States. There is no news whatever in reference to Oregon; but some of the American newspapers seem to have serious misgivings as to the state of their relations with England, and call upon the government to provide for the crisis that may be coming upon the country, and for which it is at present wholly unprepared. We imagine that, when the speeches made by Sir Robert Peel and Lord Aberdeen, on the 4th ultimo, reached New York, which would probably be on Sunday or Monday week, the misgivings, which had partially prevailed before, would very greatly increase; especially if it should be true, as is now commonly reported, that the English government messenger, sent out by the Boston steamer, on the 5th ultimo, took with him a notice for the termination of the convention for the joint occupancy of the Oregon at the end of twelve months. We may look for some very interesting and exciting news on the arrival of the Great Western in a day or two. The democratic party had defeated the whig and native republican parties in the municipal elections at New York.

FRANCE.

In the Chamber of Deputies on Thursday, while discussing an extraordinary credit of 443,000 francs for Oceania, the Minister of Marine stated that government had had intelligence from Tahiti to the 22nd of December; when all was tranquil. Admiral Hamelin had arrived, and had taken steps to re-establish the "protectorate" (in place of the French sovereignty assumed by M. Bruat). The Chamber of Deputies granted that credit; and also the sum of 41,000 francs, awarded by Prussia as an indemnity to the British claimants aggrieved by the blockade of Portendic.

There has been a long and animated debate, in the Chamber of Deputies, on the propriety of putting into execution the laws prohibiting the assembling of unauthorised religious congregations. The question was raised by M. Thiers, whose professed object in taking up the matter was to put down the meetings of the Jesuits, who have lately been causing much uneasiness in France. The debate commenced on Friday, and terminated on Saturday. M. Thiers proposed the following resolution:—"The Chamber, in confiding to the government the care of the execution of the laws, passes to the order of the day." M. Berryer and M. de Lamartine were the principal speakers in opposition to M. Thiers. M. de Lamartine addressed the House, at some length, in favour of the Jesuits, on the general ground that all religion should be free, and also maintaining, with warmth, the necessity of the complete separation of church and state. M. Thiers' motion, being supported by government, was carried by an overwhelming majority.

INDIA AND CHINA.

An Indian mail arrived yesterday with intelligence from Bombay to the 1st of April. In the Punjab confusion reigns supreme, and the disorganisation of Runjeet Singh's kingdom is going rapidly forward, for there are now several governments established there. Dhuleep Singh, the boy king, with his mother ruling, and her brother as the minister, governs at Lahore, where the Khalsa, or regular troops, will have everything their own way. Ghoolaub Singh has fixed his rule in his mountain fortress of Janroo, and the notorious Akhbar Khan, son of Dost Mahomed, of Cabul, is preparing to seize Peshawur, and to make himself master of the Sikh province, to the west of the Indus. In the meantime, the British government is quietly assembling a large army on the banks of the Sutlej, for the alleged purpose of defending its own territories, but to which it is highly probable the young King Dhuleep and his mother will soon have to apply for protection. Sir Charles Napier has been engaged in the arduous enterprise of expelling the plundering tribes from their fastnesses in the territories of the Jakranes, Doomkies, and Boogties, lying in the mountainous tracts to the westward of Poolajee. The expedition was successful. Some of the robbers have been extirpated, and some removed to a distant settlement; their land being given to the more peaceably disposed. The affairs of Sawunt Warree have assumed a complex aspect, in consequence of the Portuguese settlement of Goa becoming mixed up with the rebellion of the disaffected. The insurgents sought refuge in that territory, and the Portuguese government, whether from inability or unwillingness, declined to interfere. The matter has been referred to the courts of Lisbon and London. Later accounts, however, announce the capture, by the Goa authorities, of Phonde Sawunt, the chief of the Sawunt Warree rebels, together with several of his adherents. He was wandering through

the Goa jungles when taken. Their wives and families had previously been taken and kept in custody in a large fortification near the powder works at New Goa. In the interior of India tranquillity prevails. The Governor-general, Sir Henry Hardinge, remains at Calcutta, engaged in forwarding measures for the improvement of the country.

The news from China comes down to the 10th of February; it is not remarkable. There was a partial stagnation in business, arising from the holidays of the Chinese new year.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

THE POPE AND RAILWAYS.—A letter from Milan of the 21st ultimo, states that the Pope, a few days previously, had called together a congregation or meeting for secular purposes in Rome, at which it was determined not to allow railways within the papal states, either those having their origin there, or as connecting links with the adjoining countries.

The *Wurzburg Gazette* has the following from Dresden, April 20:—"We have received information here, that in the course of the summer the Queen of England will arrive at Coburg, where preparations are already making for her reception. It is hoped that Queen Victoria will also visit our court, and that of Berlin."

DREADFUL SHIPWRECK.—The *New York Sun* relates a frightful wreck—that of the steam-boat *Swallow*, on a rock, at night, in its way from Albany to New York. The boat was broken in two, and the remnants took fire. The scene, with 350 passengers on board, many of them ladies, may be imagined. Of that number, however, 204 are known to have been saved in other steamers and boats; many of the rest must have perished.

The *Argo* (American) packet-ship of the 8th of April brings the account of the blowing up of a steam-boat on the North River, with the loss of sixty or seventy lives; most of them ladies, who were at tea in the cabin when the accident happened. I have not time for more.—*Havre Correspondent of the Morning Post*.

AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS IN PARIS.—An agricultural congress, after the fashion of the scientific associations which meet yearly in England, and in various kingdoms of the continent, is to assemble in Paris, for the first time, on the 8th of next month, under the presidency of the Duc Decazes. The meeting is intended to be a yearly one. The present session will last for six weeks; and the *grand referendaire* will open to the congress the grand conservatory of the Luxembourg.

A letter written at Berlin, on the 21st of April, relates an attempt to assassinate the Prussian Minister of War, General Baron De Boyen. A young sub-lieutenant of artillery, who had been a pupil at the Military Academy, introduced himself into the Minister's cabinet, and, in a wild abrupt manner, told him he had come to communicate to him a secret, by means of which he was certain with one pass of his sword to send into the air a whole Russian army. Baron De Boyen tried to bow the madman out; but the intruder, growing exasperated, drew his sword, and was just about to rush on the Minister, when some attendants entered and seized him. This was the first symptom of the madness.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

MR DUNCOMBE AND THE ITALIAN EXILES.—A deputation of Italians resident in London have presented to Mr Thomas Duncombe a medal, beautifully engraved by Mr Wyon, commemorating the death of the brothers Bandiera and their fellow-sufferers at Cosenza, and bearing an inscription in Italian; of which the following is a translation—

"To Thomas Slingsby Duncombe, Esq., M.P.; because he honoured with generous words in Parliament the memory of their brethren slain for the sake of Italian faith, at Cosenza, in 1844; because he manfully upheld the rights of the Italian exiles, basely, and with fell intent, violated in their private correspondence by the English government; because he hurled back the slander aimed at one of their countrymen in palliation of that enormous breach of hospitality—many Italians, in public meeting assembled, voted this slight but dearest pledge of their gratitude and applause."

HUNGERFORD SUSPENSION FOOT-BRIDGE was opened to the public at noon on Thursday. No particular ceremony was observed, but many flags were displayed in the neighbourhood, guns were fired, and crowds collected: many thousands of persons passed over the structure in the course of the afternoon. It has a very light appearance; and when many persons are passing over the central span it sways about considerably; which renders it difficult even to walk straight. The cost of the brickwork has been £63,000, and that of the iron £17,000. The platform is supported by light iron rods descending from two chains, one above the other, on each side. Mr I. K. Brunel is the engineer. The toll is one halfpenny each person. In the evening, the Directors and their friends dined together at the London Tavern; Mr Hawes, the vice-chairman of the company, presiding.

The total number of deaths registered in the metropolitan district during the week ending on Saturday, the 26th of April, amounted to 904, a return exhibiting an increase on the average of the last five springs, and a decrease on those of the last five years, the numbers being respectively 888 and 963.

FOUR HINDOO BRAHMINS are residing in London, for the purpose of studying medicine at the London University, that on their return they may diffuse a knowledge of the science among their countrymen. Two are sent over by the Indian government, one by a public subscription among the inhabitants of Calcutta, and one by a wealthy Hindoo philanthropist, Ungatque Singh. One of the young gentlemen took

part in a swimming match at Holborn Baths on Tuesday; but his strength seemed somewhat impaired by the climate.

THE GREAT DISTILLERY CASE (SMITH'S), after a long trial of eight days, was brought to a close in the court of Exchequer on Friday, the jury finding a verdict for the Crown on the second and principal count, which charges the occupying and using as a distillery a house or houses within a quarter of a mile of a rectifying house, there being between the two such a "way, opening, or communication by means of which wort, wash, or spirits, could be removed or conveyed from the one into the other of such houses or premises, other than by carriage of a cart or wagon, through or by an open street or road;" but the foreman, in handing it in, said, that they were desirous of expressing their opinion that there had been no proof of a fraudulent use having been made of the communication. After some consultation not heard in court, the verdict was entered by agreement for £75,000 on the second count. The amount claimed by the Crown was upwards of £150,000. Mr Kelly then applied to enter a verdict of "not guilty" on the remaining five counts, which was agreed to.

INQUEST ON MARY BROTHERS.—On Wednesday the jury sat for the last time, and ended by finding a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown"—appending to their verdict a censure upon the conduct of the police authorities, in having opposed obstacles to the production of the prisoner Joseph Connor before the coroner's court.

MURDER OF AN INFANT BY ITS NURSE.—On Sunday morning, about ten o'clock, a frightful murder was committed at the residence of Mr John Drake Finch, of South street, Greenwich, solicitor. The facts of the case are as follows:—Martha Bricksey, aged eighteen years, the under-nurserymaid in Mr Finch's family, went into the kitchen shortly before ten o'clock, and asked the cook for a knife, and said she wanted it to cut a pencil for Mary, who was up stairs in the nursery. The cook gave her an ivory-handled table knife, but remarked that a smaller one would do better for the purpose. She said, no, that would do, as she could use it for cutting the bread and butter at tea in the afternoon, and immediately proceeded up stairs. In a few minutes afterwards she came down stairs again, and, opening the parlour door, told her master and mistress that she had killed the baby. Mrs Finch, in a state of indescribable astonishment, asked what the wretched girl said, and was in the act of rushing up stairs to the nursery, but was stayed by her husband and Mr Traill, the Union hall police magistrate, who was paying the family a morning visit. The girl again said that she had killed the infant, and hoped that "God would forgive her." On Mr Finch and some of his family going up stairs, his infant son, aged ten months, was discovered lying on the bed with his head severed from his body in a pool of blood. This fact being made known, the whole of the family became horror-struck. Mr Finch immediately sent for a police-constable, who conveyed the murderer to the station-house in the Blackheath road. The prisoner declared that she had no dislike or ill-feeling towards either the infant or the parents. It was done entirely through a momentary impulse, and for which she could not in the remotest degree account. The inquest took place on Monday, but there was not sufficient evidence to explain fully the cause of the murder. One reason appears to be that the prisoner was miserable about being discharged. A verdict of "Wilful murder against Mary Bricksey" was returned, and the prisoner was committed to Newgate for trial.

PROVINCIAL.

WOODSTOCK ELECTION took place on Thursday, when Lord Loftus was returned unopposed. The independent young nobleman selected by the Duke of Marlborough to replace his son was proposed by Mr Thomas Robinson. The great importance of the occasion was urged by Mr Thomas Robinson, with becoming emphasis, upon the electors. It was very unfortunate, indeed, that Woodstock and the country were deprived of the services of the Marquis of Blandford. "The loss of these services had imposed on them an important duty, and, from the present aspect of the times, it required the exercise of the soundest discretion to select a fit and faithful representative in the House of Commons." Having thus awakened the constituency to a sense of the deep responsibility that lay upon them, Mr Robinson gave way to his own feelings of satisfaction at being the means of "introducing to them a young nobleman who would support the constitution in church and state." The young nobleman was not in the way to speak for himself, but Mr Robinson had no difficulty in giving this very satisfactory account of his principles, for—he was the grandson of Sir Henry Dashwood. This reasoning seems to have struck some of the electors as being rather inconsequential; and one of them ejaculated, "I had a grandfather too, Tommy." This comment had, no doubt, peculiar force at Blenheim. The nomination of Lord Loftus was seconded by a Mr Margatts, who shared in the general regret at the retirement of the Marquis of Blandford, whose conduct—"since he had become connected with the borough"—had been satisfactory and honourable. "Then, tell us," exclaimed an elector, "what business had the Duke of Marlborough to turn the Marquis out?" There's the rub. What business had the Duke to turn him out? Mr Robinson does not answer, nor yet Mr Margatts; upon which a simple burgess rose, with a view to get the Marquis back again. Mr Money (*absit omen*), being unable to comprehend why the Marquis of Blandford should not be re-elected, proposed him as a fit and proper person to represent Woodstock in parliament. The adventurous elector took occasion to "interpellate"

Lord Henry Loftus, who represented the absent candidate, as to what were "the private considerations," which had induced the resignation of the Marquis of Blandford. Lord Henry Loftus could only reply, that "he was not the Marquis of Blandford's keeper." But it was impossible to put the question to the Duke of Marlborough, and so it was left unanswered. When Mr Money had concluded his speech, the Sheriff inquired if there was any one to second the nomination of the Marquis of Blandford. Mr Money replied, "No one dare second it;" and Lord Loftus was declared "duly elected." Three cheers were then given for Lord Loftus, and three tremendous cheers for the Marquis of Blandford, and the business concluded by the town clerk, H. North, Esq., saying, "This is a farce from beginning to end, and thus end this constitutional farce." The *Morning Chronicle* says, "If proceedings such as this have been, from the beginning to the end, be suffered to take place without parliamentary inquiry or observation, it must tend to create very great discontent with our present representative system."

On Tuesday last a new school, on the British and Foreign School system, was opened at Ottery St Mary, near Exeter.

INDEPENDENCE OF FARMERS.—We are informed, upon good authority, that, in consequence of recent events, so much dissatisfaction has been created among the agricultural interest in this county, that it has been determined to bring forward two tenant-farmers as candidates for the representation of East Sussex, upon the occasion of the next election. The names of two gentlemen have been mentioned, who, we understand, have consented to stand in the event of no other candidates among the tenant-farmers being found more eligible. We are not, however, at liberty at present to disclose the names of the parties alluded to.—*Sussex Advertiser*. This must not be mere talk. It may be difficult at first to get farmers to combine for the purpose of putting the squires out of the county representation; but when an earnest movement in that direction has been made by the tenant-farmers, the thing will have been accomplished.

On Friday week nearly 200 acres of plantation were destroyed by fire on the property of the Hon. G. Fortescue, in the parish of Boconnor, Cornwall. The fire originated in the falling of some burning peat amongst some loose furze on a large heath.

ABOLITION OF DEATH PUNISHMENT.—This subject is assuming a growing importance in the public mind. At Aylesbury, on Wednesday, a resolution against capital punishments, moved by Lord Nugent, was carried unanimously at a public meeting of the inhabitants. Lord Nugent's address was very energetic and convincing. The *Aylesbury News* of Saturday says, "We are enabled to say, from authority, that a committee is forming itself, consisting of gentry, clergy, and others, residents in Aylesbury and its neighbourhood, for the purpose of collecting and diffusing information on the subject of the punishment of death. An address to her Majesty Queen Victoria, and petitions to both houses of parliament, praying for the abolition of capital punishments, are now in course of signature from the gentry, clergy, and other inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Aylesbury."—On Tuesday evening, a lecture was delivered in the Friends' Meeting-house, Bridgewater, by Mr R. L. Carpenter, B.A., on Capital Punishment, in consequence of the recent execution of Sarah Freeman, at Taunton. There was a crowded audience, and many persons were unable to obtain admission. At the close of the lecture a petition to parliament, praying for the abolition of capital punishments, was unanimously adopted.

THE LATE FATAL ACCIDENT AT ASHTON-UNDER-LINE.—The inquest on the bodies of the persons killed by the late accident terminated on Wednesday in a verdict of "Accidental death," accompanied by a strongly expressed opinion that the accident was attributable to the bad or insufficient quality of the materials used, the inferior workmanship, and the negligence of the company's servants. They also suggested that a copy of the evidence should be furnished to the Board of Trade, in order that the government inspector, who will have to survey the line before it is opened, may make a minute inspection of all the works on the line.

FRIGHTFUL CATASTROPHE AT YARMOUTH.—One of the most calamitous events which ever befell this town, or any other in this district of the kingdom, has just transpired, and has spread lamentation and grief throughout the entire population. The scene of this dreadful event was the Suspension bridge, on the North quay, crossing the river Bure, and which has been the entrance to the town from the railway terminus, and the new road from Acle. Cook's Equestrian company has for some time been staying in the town, and on the morning of this fatal day it was announced by public handbills that Nelson, one of the clowns, would sail up the river Bure, starting from Yarmouth bridge, to Vauxhall gardens, at five o'clock, in a common washing-tub, drawn by four "real geese," elegantly harnessed and caparisoned. At the time appointed, this absurd exhibition took place. The clown and his geese started from the Old Bridge in the presence of an immense concourse of persons, who had assembled on the banks to witness the feat. On his arrival at the mouth of the Bure, a current took him towards Braydon, whence he was obliged to be towed back to the union of the two streams. The multitude of persons along the North quay was greatly increased by the rush from the Old bridge, and every spot where a view of Nelson and his geese could be obtained was filled with spectators. By far the most advantageous view was had from the Suspension bridge, and this was eagerly sought for by the unsuspecting populace. About 400 persons occupied this position, and were pressing on

the south side to obtain the first glance of the coming wonder. The bridge is an elegant structure, suspended from two piers, and capable of standing a much larger number of persons than that we have named; but we understand every point of vision towards the spot where the geese were to be looked for was densely crammed with men, women, and children, and even the chains and suspenders had many occupants. A gentleman who passed over, noticed that the crown of the bridge, instead of maintaining its convex form, was completely flattened. He remarked the circumstance to a companion; but, at this moment, all eyes were stretched to the utmost, and every ear listening with eagerness for the first announcement of the clown's appearance. This anxiety was brought to its highest pitch by the cry of, "Here come the geese." The shout resounded from side to side; but amidst it was heard a shriek from the shores; the bridge was observed to give way—it lowered on one side—the chains snapped asunder, one after another, in momentary succession—and, almost before the gaze of the thronging multitude could be drawn from its object of worthless interest, it was riveted to the half-sunken bridge—suspended on one side by its unbroken chains—cleared of all its occupants, every one of whom was plunged into the stream, and over them the waters were flowing, as if unconscious of the fearful tragedy which had momentarily occurred. Those who witnessed it asserted that not a scream was heard, nor a sound emitted, from the unfortunate victims. A fearful splash and a few gurgling struggles only recognised the spot which had swallowed such a mass of human life. Some few men, hanging by the broken chains, were earnestly intreated to maintain their hold; but it was soon observed that, in consequence of the obstruction of the stream by the fallen bridge, and the human bodies below, the advancing tide would soon bury even them from sight. Every boat was immediately in requisition, and as many as twenty-five were soon on the spot, and rendered active and gallant service. The scene at this moment beggars description: husbands and wives, parents and children, were excited with the deepest anxiety. The efforts to save the victims were noble and praiseworthy. At the Norwich Arms inn, the scene was most dreadful. The kitchen, the tap-room, and other rooms, with the stables, were filled with victims. As many as ten or a dozen were ultimately restored, but no less than 53 corpses were brought into that house, and which defied all the means of restoration; others were taken to other public houses in the neighbourhood, but not in very considerable numbers. We lament, however, to say, that of the number who had been taken out of the river at 11 o'clock at night, the eyes of 73 were for ever closed in death. The great majority of them were women and children. Persons whose relatives and whose children were down to see the sight, on hearing of the catastrophe, flocked from all parts of the town to make inquiries, and to examine the dead bodies; fathers and mothers were moaning for their children, and children for their parents, husbands for their wives, and the awfully distressing scene was such that no description can do justice to. The bodies were removed by the relations as they were recognised. Sunday—113 bodies have been already taken out of the river; the number will probably be 130 to 140, as many are under the bridge, as well as those who have been carried up the river. The bridge has fallen down on the side nearest Braydon, and forms a complete barrier to the stream and navigation. The excitement and sympathy occasioned by this painful disaster continues unabated; the trains are overflowing.—*Norfolk News.*

CURIOUS DISCOVERY OF BURGLARS.—The neighbourhoods of Bingham, Hose, and Melton Mowbray, Nottinghamshire, and Leicestershire, have lately been the scenes of many robberies of an extensive character. Among the number was one in the early part of the month of March last, at the house of Mr J. Bailey, draper, of Bingham, when the thieves accidentally left behind them an old pocket knife, having a remarkable appearance. Cunningham, a policeman at Bottesford, set his wits to work to discover the owner; and, after untiring exertions, ascertained that it belonged to Henry Rouse, formerly of Hose, but then a soldier at Leicester. He set out for the latter place, where he contrived to get into the company of the soldier. Attired as a countryman, he sat a considerable time in the same room, and then took the knife from his pocket, and began to pare his nails. Rouse, seeing his old pocket companion, involuntarily exclaimed, "That's mine." "Is it, indeed?" replied the unknown policeman; "I should think not, for I have had it a long time." "You haven't," replied Rouse, incautiously, and immediately attempted to force the knife out of the hand of the policeman. Cunningham, fully satisfied with his discovery, said, "Yes, I know it's your knife, and you are my prisoner," and, at the same time, secured his man with a pair of handcuffs. The soldier was then charged with the burglary; and supposing his accomplice had been "splitting" upon him, he resolved to make terms, if possible, to save himself, and at once made a confession of the whole affair. In consequence of his information, Samuel Morrison, carrier from Hose and Bingham to Nottingham, and Richard Sarston, labourer, of Hose, were taken into custody, and a large quantity of the stolen property was found concealed in the roof of Morrison's house, and other portions of it have been found secreted in different parts of the village of Hose. Morrison has been living in circumstances that raised him above suspicion, and was considered a respectable person; but there is now reason to believe he has long been an associate of thieves, and the medium of conveying large quantities of stolen fowls to market from the neighbourhood in which he lived, as the farmers have missed poultry, generally, on the

mornings he had to go to Nottingham. All the prisoners are now in gaol awaiting their trial.

IRELAND.

HER MAJESTY'S VISIT.—Mr O'Connell's speech at the Conciliation hall has had the effect of putting an end to the wondrous unanimity displayed a few days back between conservatives and repealers, upon the question of a royal visit. A special meeting of the town council was called the day after, upon the requisition of several aldermen and town-councillors, for the purpose of appointing a committee to frame an address to her Majesty, "praying that she might be pleased, at her convenience, to visit her loyal and faithful Irish subjects." But the conservatives would not join in the prayer on account of O'Connell's change of tactics, which he avowed, saying that, "when he signed the requisition convening that meeting, he did not think that in a day or two after he should read in the English papers such a thorough defiance of the Irish people as was contained in the declaration of English statesmen, that, even if the vessel of the state were sinking—even if utter ruin threatened the empire—the English people would make no concession on the subject of repeal. He contended that Ireland had as good a right to a voice on the subject as England or Scotland [hear, hear]. Neutrality on the subject had been rendered impossible by the declarations in parliament. It seemed to him that there was a design to place repealers in this predicament—that they must either continue the agitation during the royal visit, or allow it to be trumpeted abroad, in parliament and elsewhere, that they were apathetic, and ready to abandon it."

COMFORT FOR SIR R. PEEL.—John, Archbishop of Tuam, has addressed a long letter to the Premier, treating the grant to Maynooth as a very paltry affair, wrung from this country in spite of itself and with regret; and at the repeal weekly meeting a letter from Bishop Higgins to Mr O'Connell was read, in which the measure is spoken of in equally contemptuous terms—as worthy of "no gratitude whatever," as "wrung by their own energies and determination from a bigoted and anti-Catholic cabinet," as "paltry," considering the population of Ireland, &c. Bishop Higgins then goes on to say, that it amounts to but three farthings a-head, and as a bribe for good behaviour, is absolutely insufficient to make the Irish Catholics sit down contented with bad laws, a mock representation, partisan magistrates, and a domineering and robbing corporation called a church establishment. And after showing his utter contempt for the offer of the grant, he concludes—"We want and demand a repeal of the iniquitous union; there is no other remedy for the wrongs of our country."

THE DUNDALK DEMONSTRATION came off on Thursday. There were the usual accompaniments of monster meetings—deputations, processions, temperance bands and banners, and an assembly of 60,000 persons. Mr O'Connell's speech was of a thoroughly repeal character. They would have no compromise:—

You who interrupted me a while ago said well that we should have no compromise. No; we will not take any instalment as a satisfaction for the debt. I will take all I can get for the Irish people, and I will ask for the rest the moment afterwards [cheers and laughter]. Give me, I will say, 6d. in the pound of my debt, and I will look out afterwards for the other 19s. 6d.

On the subject of Maynooth:—

Be it remembered that not a single Roman Catholic, of the millions of Catholics that are to be found in Ireland, petitioned for that increase in the Maynooth grant [hear, hear]. Not a single petition was presented for it on behalf of the Irish Catholics. For my own part, I did not say so much as "Ah! do be so kind as to give it to us" [laughter]. Not the least compliment did we condescend to ask at their hands. Nobody asked them for it. They did it of themselves—of their own free will and accord.

If they would bide their time, they would soon have repeal:—

We will bide our time in tranquillity of soul, and take our opportunity when it comes. Things cannot remain as they are. Before three months elapse, England may be in a war. Good luck to her in that war, if she does justice to Ireland first; I will not pray at all on the other side of the question [laughter], for it is past praying for. There is no knowing how soon some vicissitudes in the fortunes of England may achieve everything for us, and, take my word for it, that if there be a war within the next three months or so, you will be walking up to Dublin, before Christmas next, with small sticks in your hands, just for the purpose of seeing what an Irish parliament looks like [cheers and laughter].

The room in which the banquet was served was a large and commodious pavilion, especially fitted up for the occasion, in the rear of the warehouse of Mr Devlin, a leading merchant of the town. On the entablature over the chair was the motto, "Men of Louth, remember 1826," referring to the defeat of the oligarchic Orriels in that year, and the triumph of the people in the return of Alexander Dawson. Underneath was hung a shield bearing this inscription:—

"If again the sword we draw,
True men that none may sever,
For Ireland's right and Ireland's law,
We'll cross the Boyne together;
Each for the altar of his love,
But all for Ireland's glory."

About 600 gentlemen sat down to dinner, including about 40 members of the '82 club, in uniform. Letters were read from Bishop McNally, Bishop Brown, and Bishop Cantwell, all expressive of scorn at the Premier's miserable offer of conciliation, and their firm adherence to repeal. Mr O'Connell's banquet speech was of a very minatory character. He insisted that it was the duty of every Irish representative to abstain from going to parliament, and to remain in Dublin. The other speeches were of a similar character. Mr Kelly, a priest, said—

Sir Robert Peel will not stop at the threshold of Maynooth; he will trample on the liberties of our independent, ancient church, by infringing on the privileges of the bishops, and the rights of the second order of the clergy [hear]; he will, if possible, sever the happy connexion of the Irish priests and people, that he may blast the high hopes of the one, and crush the valued and long-cherished immunities of the other [cheers]. He proclaims his purpose of concession to Ireland. As far as religion is concerned, let him congratulate himself on the success of his first experiment; but let him not mingle deeper in the mysteries of the sanctuary ["hear," and loud cheers]. Never shall the Irish priesthood disengage themselves from the struggle till the vessel of national independence is floated safely into its destined harbour [cheers].

SCOTLAND.

PEEBLES SHIRE ELECTION.—The election for Peeblesshire was fixed to take place at Peebles, on Monday. There is not to be any opposition to Mr Mackenzie, on the part of the conservatives. The liberals applied to Sir James Forrest, late provost of Edinburgh (who, it will be remembered, allowed her Majesty, on her first visit to Scotland, to steal a march upon him, by reclining too long on his pillow one morning), to become a candidate; but Sir James, it seems, declined. Mr Mackenzie's address to the electors is a curious specimen of cool effrontery. His notorious change of opinion on the Maynooth grant has caused some amusement at the passage in which he says—"I will always maintain the same political principles which I have constantly professed, and which I have fully announced on former occasions." He is to be opposed by Mr Carmichael, son of Sir Thomas Carmichael.

ELGIN BURGHS.—The name of Sir Andrew Leith Hay, member for the Elgin burghs, lately appeared in the *Gazette*, his goods having been sequestered; he has not shown himself in parliament; and a correspondence on the subject appears in the Scotch papers. The town council of one of the burghs (Peterhead) very pointedly ask the gallant knight when he is to appear in the House of Commons, and attend to the interests of his constituents? to which Sir Andrew replies only by acknowledging the receipt of the letter.

An atmospheric railway without a valve is now attracting the attention of the scientific world. It is the invention of a Mr Pilbrow, who estimates the cost of constructing such a railway at only £3,000 per mile. Mr Pilbrow has substituted spiral cut wheels for the cog wheels, which were, at first objected to.

CLERICAL SHEEP.—At the visitation of the Archdeacon of London at St Sepulchre's, Snow hill, on Tuesday, the Rev. Sir John Page Wood preached a sermon for the occasion, and took for his text the words from St Matthew's Gospel—"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye, therefore, wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

The importation of foreign cattle continues on a more extensive scale, and a decided increase in the number is anticipated.

The Duke of Wellington completed his seventieth year on Thursday, having been born on the 1st of May, 1769.

Most of the Manchester booksellers and stationers have determined on closing their shops on Saturday afternoons.

The Prince of Wales and the junior branches of the royal family have had an attack of the whooping cough.

THE PENNY DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.—At the Buckingham sessions—as we learn from the *Aylesbury News*—the chivalrous, the magnificent, the battue-loving Buckingham, prosecuted one Caleb Blackwell, for "having damaged a fence, to the amount of one penny!" Blackwell, it appears, was a poacher, and had twice before been summarily convicted. Whereupon, for this third offence, he was sentenced to "four months' imprisonment with hard labour, and to be once privately whipped!" And yet there are falsifying people, who avouch that the Duke of Buckingham is not beloved by the peasantry! Scandalous malignity! He is beloved; and henceforth, let his reputation, like the name of Whittington, go down to posterity, for ever associated with a cat.—*Punch.*

THE RAILWAYS AND THE LAWYERS.—It has been calculated that one hundred thousand pounds will go into the pockets of the lawyers during the present session of parliament in the shape of fees to counsel for attending before committees of the House of Commons. If there is such an outlay for law, the estimates for making a railway should include not only iron, but brass.—*Punch.*

MARRIAGES.

April 23, at the Independent chapel, Wilsden, by Mr John Calvert, of Morley, Mr J. M. CALVERT, Independent minister, Pateley Bridge, to MARY, only daughter of the late Mr Abraham RUODES, of Mytham cottage, near Bingley.

April 30, at the High Street Independent chapel, Lancaster, by Mr W. Wolfe Fletcher, Mr FRANCIS EIDSFORTH, printer, of Leeds, to Miss NANCY DOBSON, of Galgate, near Lancaster.

May 1, at the Independent chapel, Mansfield, by Mr R. Weaver, Mr CHARLES WILSON, of Sutton-in-Ashfield, to Miss ELIZA OATES, of the same place.

DEATHS.

April 20, at Southport, Lancashire, after a short illness, MARY JANE, daughter of Mrs Mary HUGGINS, of Otley, Yorkshire, in her 34th year.

April 25, suddenly, in consequence of a fall from his horse, Mr DAVID NEWMAN WOOD, of Strawberry hill, Chessington, third son of Mr Alexander Wood, of New Brentford.

April 28, at Halstead, Essex, after a painful illness, ELIZABETH, the beloved and faithful wife of Mr Isaac WALFORD, brewer.

April 29, suddenly, aged 62, Mr JOHN TINGLE, maltster, &c., Kettering, for many years a deacon of the Independent church in that town.

May 3, MARY, the wife of Mr J. MATHER, of Brompton, late of Sheepen's Market.

May 4, of consumption, CHARLOTTE, the eldest and beloved daughter of Mr and Mrs JOHN KENT, of Laurie Terrace, St George's road, in the 23rd year of her age.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, May 2.

BANKRUPTS.

CAPAS, THOMAS, Aston juxta-Birmingham, builder, May 8, June 13: solicitors, Messrs Motteram and Knowles, Birmingham, and Messrs Parkes and Co., Bedford row.

CHANDLER, BENJAMIN, Staunmore, ironmonger, May 9, June 12: solicitor, Mr Ashley, Shoreditch.

COOKE, JOSEPH, Wem, Shropshire, brewer, May 5, June 6: solicitors, Mr Walmsley, Wem, and Mr James, Birmingham.

HEATON, JAMES, Ludlow, stationer, May 8, June 13: solicitors, Messrs Anderson and Co., Ludlow, and Mr Wootton, Torkenhouse yard.

HENSMAN, JOHN HENRY, and FREDERICK, Adelphi wharf, Strand, coal merchants: solicitors, Messrs Turner and Hensman, Basing lane.

HODGKISS, THOMAS, Wellington, Shropshire, victualer, May 15, June 9: solicitors, Mr Palmer, Birmingham, and Mr Jennings, Chancery lane.

LEE, JAMES, Tadcaster, porter merchant, May 14, June 2: solicitors, Mr Thompson, Tadcaster; Mr Dickinson, Leeds; and Messrs Parkinson and Co., Gray's Inn.

LEPLASTRIER, LOUIS, Alfred street, River terrace, Islington, clock maker, May 13, June 6: solicitor, Mr Hussey, Basing lane.

NICHOLS, HENRY, Coleford, Gloucestershire, auctioneer, May 26, June 13: solicitor, Mr Wilkes, Gloucester.

OLLIVER, THOMAS, Prestbury, near Cheltenham, livery-stable keeper, May 15, June 12: solicitors, Mr Bridges, Bristol, and Mr Manning, Craven street, Strand.

PARIS, HENRY, Loughborough, painter, May 8, June 13: solicitors, Mr Brown, Nottingham, and Messrs Harrison and Smith, Birmingham.

KNOTT, THOMAS RUSHFORTH, Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, druggist, May 13, June 11: solicitors, Mr Hulton, Bolton, and Mr Sutton, Manchester.

SLATER, EDWARD, Montpelier square, Brompton, cabinet maker, May 9, June 13: solicitor, Mr Foord, Pinners hall, Broad street.

SMIRK, JAMES EDWARD, Broad court, Bow street, victualer, May 13, June 13: solicitor, Mr Spiller, Camomile street, Bishopsgate.

TUPPER, WILLIAM CHALCROFT, Catherington, Hampshire, grocer, May 9, June 6: solicitors, Mr Pufford, Portsea, and Mr Ivey, Chancery lane.

WARR, HARRY, Bridport, currier, May 15, June 12: solicitors, Messrs Temple and Son, Bridport; Mr Terrell, Exeter, and Messrs Clowes and Co., Temple.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

CONNELL, A., Glasgow, merchant, May 6, 27.

DIVIDENDS.

A. Neath, iron merchant; first div. of 1s. 5d., any Monday—Hodgson, Manchester, calico printer; first div. of 3s. 6d., any Tuesday—Brown, Regent street, grocer; div. of 20s., any Wednesday—Marshall, Deptford, stonemason; first div. of 3s. 9d. three subsequent Saturdays.

Tuesday, May 6.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7 Will. IV., cap. 85:—

New Christian church, Argyle square, St Pancras.

BANKRUPTS.

BATT, JOHN, and BATT, THOMAS, Old Broad street, City, dealers in silk, May 5, June 17: solicitors, Messrs Crowder and Maynard, Coleman street.

BENT, HENRY, Brierley hill, Staffordshire, chain maker, May 14, June 11: solicitors, Messrs A. and T. S. Ryland, Birmingham; and Messrs Sharpe and Co., 41, Bedford row, London.

BROWN, JOHN, and URQUHART, ALEXANDER, Manchester, carpet warehouseman, May 20, June 6: solicitors, Messrs Johnson and Co., Temple, London; and Hitecock and Co., Manchester.

CRASER, DAVID, Woolwich, Kent, victualer, May 20, June 17: solicitor, Mr C. B. Teague, 5, Crown court, Cheapside.

COX, MICHAEL, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, Dorsetshire, ironmonger, May 15, June 12: solicitors, Mr R. C. Phillips, Weymouth; Mr Combe, Staple inn, London; and Mr J. H. Terrell, Exeter.

CROSS, ROBERT, late of Halstead, but now of Colchester, Essex, corn merchant, May 15, June 13: solicitors, Messrs Milne and Co., Temple, and Mr Walsh, Sudbury.

DARVELL, EDWARD STONE, 2, Great Tower street, City, colonial broker, May 15, June 17: solicitors, Messrs Lawrance and Plevs, Bucklersbury.

FORSYTH, THOMAS, Durham, hotel keeper, May 25, June 26: solicitors, Mr James Griffith, 6, Raymond buildings, Gray's inn, London; Messrs Trotter and Hodgson, Bishop Auckland; and Mr Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

HAIGH, JAMES, Hogley, Yorkshire, clothier, May 17, June 12: solicitors, Mr Cumming, King street, Cheapside, London; and Messrs Brook and Freeman, Huddersfield.

HALL, CHRISTOPHER, Sheffield, grocer, May 21, June 9.

HUMPHRIES, MOSES, Hulme, Lancashire, joiner, May 20, June 6: solicitors, Messrs Gregory and Co., Bedford row, London; and Mr Adam Bell, Manchester.

LAWRIE, GEORGE, Fleetwood-upon-Wyre, Lancashire, chemist, May 15, June 13: solicitors, Messrs Sudlow and Co., Chancery lane, London.

MERSON, WILLIAM, Aston, Staffordshire, innkeeper, May 15, June 12: solicitors, Mr Bowen, Stafford; and Messrs Harrison and Smith, Birmingham.

NEWTON, JOHN WARD, and NEWTON, FRANCIS JACOB, Rotherham, Yorkshire, spirit merchants, May 17, June 12: solicitors, Mr Badger, Rotherham; and Mr Blackburn, Leeds.

ROBINSON, RICHARD, 14, King William street, Strand, wholesale spirit merchant, May 20, June 20: solicitor, Mr Shirreff, 7, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

START, WILLIAM, Sneinton, Nottinghamshire, lacemaker, May 16, June 9: solicitors, Mr Cowley, Nottingham; and Messrs Motteram and Knowles, Birmingham.

TAYLOR, WILLIAM JAMES, 82, High street, Camden Town, grocer, May 14, June 18: solicitor, Mr Joseph Burton, Powis place, Great Ormond street.

THURNELL, WILLIAM, Leadenhall street, City, and Great Windmill street, Coventry street, Piccadilly, upholsterer, May 20, June 20: solicitors, Messrs Pain and Hatherley, Basinghall street, and Great Marlborough street.

WARRINER, GEORGE, formerly of George yard, Lombard street, but now of the Royal Exchange, and Little Tower street, City, and Erith, Kent, tavern keeper, May 16, June 20: solicitors, Messrs Kiss and Son, 139, Fenchurch street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

DAVIDSON, JOHN, Aberdeen, painter, May 30.

M'ARTHUR, ALEXANDER, jun., Tarbert, Argyleshire, merchant, May 15, June 12.

DIVIDENDS.

Michael Hadley, Walsall, druggist, sec. div. of 6d., any Thursday—Neville Bead, 6, Beech street, Barbican, and 18, Charlton street, Somers town, leather seller, div. of 1d., any Wednesday—Edward Turmaine, Canterbury, porter merchant, final div. of 1d., any Wednesday—Samuel Skinner, late of Greenham, Berkshire, brewer, div. of 1d., any Wednesday—C. Dotesio, Royal hotel, Slough, hotel keeper, div. of 4s., any Wednesday—W. C. Thompson, Liverpool, sec. div. of 15-16ths of a penny, any Monday—Broughton and Garnett, Nantwich, Cheshire, bankers, fifth div. of 3d., any Monday—B. Sayle and T. Booth, of the Park iron works, Sheffield, and Tinsley park, Rotherham, Yorkshire, iron masters, sec. div. of 2s. 6d., and a first div. of 7s. 6d. on new profits, any Tuesday—T. Burton, Bramham, Yorkshire, shoemaker, first and final div. of 2s. 5d. any Tuesday—E. L. Aarons, St James's place, Aldgate, oilman, first div. of 1s. 10d., any Saturday—D. Roderick, St. Martin's court, victualer, sec. div. of 2d., any Saturday—T. Berridge, Manchester, tobacconist, sec. div. of 8d., any Wednesday—C. A. Bradbury, Stockport, draper, final div. of 1s. 2d., any Wednesday—J. Whitlaw, Manchester, laceman, first div. of 4s. 6d., any Wednesday—F. Rinder, Leeds, butcher, sec. div. at the following rates: first class creditors, 3s. 1d.; sec. and third ditto, 2s. 6d.; fourth ditto, 1s. 8d.; any Tuesday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

The funds have been very inactive since our last. Prices are nearly stationary but upon the whole pretty firm.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½
Ditto for Account	99	99	98½	98½	98½	98½
3 per cent. Reduced	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
New 3½ per cent.	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½
Long Annuities	11½	11½	11½	11½	11½	11½
Bank Stock	210	210	210	209½	209½	209½
India Stock	277	278	278	278	278	278
Exchequer Bills	57pm	58pm	59pm	58pm	59pm	57pm
India Bonds	71pm	—	—	72pm	72pm	72pm

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	38
Belgian	99	Peruvian	31
Brazilian	88	Portuguese 5 per cent	—
Buenos Ayres	44	Ditto converted	67
Columbian	15½	Russian	117½
Danish	88	Spanish Active	41
Dutch 2½ per cent	63	Ditto Passive	7
Ditto 4 per cent	97½	Ditto Deferred	18

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	—	London & Birm. ½ Share	23
Birmingham & Gloucester	136	London and Brighton	64
Blackwall	94	London & Croydon Trunk	184
Bristol and Exeter	54	London and Greenwich	11
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	Ditto New	25
Eastern Counties	20½	Manchester and Leeds	143
Edinburgh and Glasgow	66	Midland Counties	154
Grand Junction	—	Ditto New Shares	19
Great North of England	200	Midland and Derby	117
Great Western	188	Ditto New	—
Ditto Half	106	South Eastern and Dover	40
Ditto Fifties	42	South Western	80
London and Birmingham	236	Ditto New	144

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, May 5.

The market this morning was moderately supplied with English wheat from Essex and Kent; best qualities sold at last week's rates, but the trade for secondary descriptions was dull, although their value remained unaltered; the inquiry for foreign was very limited, and prices are nominally the same.

We observe no alteration in barley, either malting or grinding, but the demand is confined to retail purchases for immediate use.

Beans and peas are each inquired after, and in some instances obtain rather more money.

The show of oats is small, and holders being firm in insisting on an advance of 6d. per qr. upon the rates of Monday last, render the trade less active.

Wheat, Red	40 to 46	Malt, Ordinary	52 to 50
Fine	46 to 50	Pale	52 to 60
White	42 to 50	Rye	30 to 34
Fine	50 to 55	Peas, Hog	34 to 36
Flour, per sack	32 to 42	Maple	33 to 38
Barley	23 to 28	Boilers	32 to 36
Malting	30 to 34	Beans, Ticks	32 to 36

Beans, Pigeon	35 to 40	Wheat	20s. 0d.
Harrow	33 to 37	Barley	6 0
Oats, Feed	20 to 22	Oats	6 0
Fine	22 to 24	Rye	10 6
Poland	22 to 24	Beans	7 6
Potato	22 to 24	Peas	7 6

Wheat	45s. 11d.	Wheat	46s. 0d.
Barley	31 6	Barley	32 2
Oats	21 10	Oats	21 3
Rye	30 2	Rye	30 5
Beans	35 9	Beans	35 1
Peas	36 1	Peas	35 9

SEEDS.

There is nothing new to report in respect to seeds, and quotations have undergone little or no change since Monday last.

Linseed	per qr	Clover	per cwt.
English, sowing	52s. to 58s.	English, red	45s. to 55
Baltic, ditto	—	Ditto, white	60 to 68
Ditto, crushing	40 to 45	Flemish, pale	—
Me it. & Odessa	40 to 44	Ditto, fine	—
Hempseed, small	35 to 38	New Hamb., red	40 to 48
Large	—	Ditto, fine	50 to —
Canary, new	47 to 48	Old Hamb., red	—
Extra	51	Ditto, fine	—
Caraway, old	44 to 46	French, red	40 to 50
New	48 to 50	Ditto, white	50 to 75
Ryegrass, English	—	Coriander	12 to 18
Scotch	—	Old	—
Mustard	per bushel	Rapeseed, 24d. to 26d. per last.	—
Brown, new	8 to 12	English, new	23d. to 25d.
White	12 to 14	Linseed cakes	—
Trefoil	17 to 24	English	11l. 0s. to 12l.
Old	—	Foreign	7l. 0s. to 8l.
Tares, new	6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.	Rapeseed cakes	— to —

PROVISIONS, LONDON, May 5.

The stock of old Irish butter being now reduced to a mere trifle, prices are quite nominal. Some few speculative sales of Corks, Limericks, and best brands of Waterfords, have been made for June to September shipment, at about 80s. to 82s. on board. The quantity of foreign arriving continues large, and price of best Dutch only 88s. The bacon market ruled dull during the week, and the business transacted very limited. Lard and Hams continue firm, without alteration in prices.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, May 5.

The market for hops has continued in much the same position. There is but a limited business doing, but the quotations generally rule steady.

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, May 5.

The supply during the past week has been less than in several of the preceding, yet the best samples only were in request by the trade, and notwithstanding the lowness of the prices they only purchased for present consumption. We believe the oldest salesman in the market never before saw such an immense quantity of potatoes sold at such low prices.

York Reds	40 to 70	Kent & Essex Whites	40 to 50
Perth	30 to 40	Wisbeach Kidneys	40 to 45
Early Devons	40 to 46	Do. Whites	40 to 45
Cornwall	— to —	Guernsey Blues	— to 50
Jersey Blues	— to 50	Prince Regents	50 to 60

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, May 5.

The beef trade was active at an improvement in the currencies obtained on this day's night of quite 4d. per 8lbs., at which a good clearance was effected. The number of foreign beasts did not exceed 25, and mostly found buyers at full rates of currency, viz. from 16l. to 18l. per head. There was great activity in the mutton trade, and great improvement in the currencies. The best old Downs produced 5s. per 8lbs. without difficulty, other breeds selling readily at a proportionate advance. The veal trade was steady, at 2d. per 8lbs. more money. Pigs moved off slowly, at late rates.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	2s. 8d. to 4s. 2d.	Veal	3s. 8d. to 4s. 10d.
Mutton	3 4 5 0	Pork	3 0 4 0
Lamb	5s. 0d. to 6s. 0d.		

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday	670	7,170	184	298
Monday	2,915	20,650	103	320

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, May 5.

	Per 8lbs. by the carcass.		Per 8lbs. by the carcass.
Inferior Beef 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.	—	Inf. Mutton	3s. 0d. to 3s. 6d.
Middling do 2 10 .. 3 0	—	Mid. ditto	3 4 .. 4 0
Prime large 3 2 .. 3 4	—	Prime ditto	4 4 .. 4 8
Prime small 3 4 .. 3 6	—	Veal	4 0 .. 5 0
Large Pork 3 0 .. 3 6	—	Small Pork	3 8 .. 4 2
		Lamb, 5s. 0d. to 6s. 4d.	

WOOL.

There has been a better inquiry for nearly all descriptions of short wools, likewise for foreign and Down combing sorts. The imports during the past week were 4,966 bales; of this quantity 2,226 bales were from Van Diemen's Land, 2,202 from Peru, 177 from Germany, 185 from the Cape of Good Hope, 97 from Italy, 49 from Buenos Ayres, and 30 from France.

COTTON.

The prices of Cotton have fluctuated a little during the week, Up to Wednesday morning they were quiet, and rather lost ground, but in the course of the day a sweeping demand showed itself; 15,000 bags changed hands, a large portion, perhaps one-half, being on speculation. Since that day there has been a moderate demand, steadily supporting previous rates. The quantity sold was 31,500 bags.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, May 3.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow .. 72s. to 95s.	New Clover Hay .. 90s. to 136s.
New ditto	Old ditto
Useful Old ditto .. 100 .. 108	Oat Straw .. 38 .. 40
Fine Upland ditto 110 .. 115	Wheat Straw .. 40 .. 48

COAL EXCHANGE, May 5.

Stewart's, 17s. 6d.; Hetton's, 17s. 0d.; Braddyll's Hetton's, 19s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 54.

GROCERIES, TUESDAY, MAY 6.

TEA.—The deliveries last week amounted to 509,700 lbs. The market is steady. Some small parcels will be offered by public sale on the 8th instant.

COFFEE.—68 casks Jamaica sold in auction at rather firmer rates; fine middling, 106s.; good middling, 82s. 6d. to 96s. 500 bales Mocha, in auction, sold at firmer rates. Good ordinary Ceylon are selling slowly at 45s. to 45s. 6d. per cwt.

SUGAR.—The trade bought 850 hhds and tierces at a decline of about 6d. to 1s. per cwt. Barbadoes fetched 48s. to 53s.; Trinidad, 42s. 6d. to 48s. The refined market has a dull appearance. Standard lumps are offered at 67s. 6d. to 68s., and brown grocery at 65s. 6d. to 67s. per cwt.

RICE.—2,000 bags Bengal, offered in auction, sold at full prices; middling white at 11s. to 11s. 6d.

Advertisements.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES. FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY.

THE MEETINGS of the FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY of the CONGREGATIONAL UNION of England and Wales will be held in CROSBY HALL, Bishopsgate street, on Tuesday, the 13th, and Friday, the 16th of May. Chair to be taken each day at Nine o'clock a.m. precisely by the Rev. JOHN BURNETT, of Camberwell.

ALGERNON WELLS, Secretary.

COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING of the COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY will be held in the WEIGH-HOUSE CHAPEL, Fish Street hill, on Friday Evening, the 16th of May. Chair to be taken at Six o'clock precisely, by J. R. MILLS, Esq., Treasurer of the Society.

ALGERNON WELLS.

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MAYNOOTH CONFERENCE OF DISSENTERS.

A CONFERENCE of such as are opposed to the Maynooth Grant on the ground of the Evil of all State Endowments of Religion will be held on the 20th of the present month, of which further notice will be given.

F. A. COX, D.D., LL.D., London.
R. S. BAYLEY, Sheffield.
J. P. MURSELL, Leicester.

May 5, 1845.

LONDON PEACE SOCIETY.

THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING of the SOCIETY for the PROMOTION of PERMANENT and UNIVERSAL PEACE will be held in FINSBURY CHAPEL, MOORFIELDS, on TUESDAY, MAY 20th, 1845. CHARLES HINDLEY, Esq., M.P., President of the Society, has engaged to take the Chair, at SIX o'clock.

LONDON PEACE SOCIETY.

SERMONS on the PACIFIC PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIANITY as CONDEMNATORY of WAR are intended to be preached on the 11th Day of MAY next, in London and its vicinity, as under. It is understood that the evening of the day will be thus appropriated, except where M. or A. is added, indicating that the time will be the morning or the afternoon. Several other ministers have expressed their readiness to have united in this arrangement, but are prevented by absence from home or other circumstances; and several will preach, who did not wish their names to be announced. Of those whose names appear, fourteen have intimated that they do so with some reserve as to the full principle of the Peace Society.

Battersea	Rev. I. M. Soule.
Bermondsey, Jamaica row	— George Rose.
Bermondsey, Jamaica row	— William Dovey.
Bermondsey, Neckinger road	— John Bodington.
Bethnal green, Cambridge road	— Josiah Viney.
Bethnal green, Ebenezer chapel	— James A. Roberts.
Bethnal green, Hart's lane	— Mr. Thomas Marshall.
Borough road chapel	— Rev. John Stevenson.
Broad street, City	— George Wilkins.
Brixton, Acre lane	— S. A. Dubourg.
Brixton, Trinity chapel	— Samuel Eldridge.
Brixton, North	— Mr. J. C. Symons.
Brixton, Union chapel	— Rev. J. Hunt.
Bromley	— George Verrall.
Camberwell, Mansion-house chapel	— John Burnet. A.
Castle street, Oxford market	— Emanuel Pearson.
Chelsea, Paradise row	— W. E. Archer.
Chertsey	— Thomas Schofield.
Cheshunt, Church street	— Mark Drury.
Cheshunt, Cross Brook street	— John Hall.
Croydon	— William Campbell.
Dartford	— James S. Cuzner.
Deptford, High street	— John Pulling.
Dorking	— Richard Connebee.
Eagle street chapel, Holborn	— R. W. Overbury.
Ealing	— G. J. Adeney.
Earl street, London road	— William Drummond.
Enfield, Chase side	— S. A. Davies.
Epping	— G. D. Mudie.
Falcon square chapel, Aldersgate st.	— James Bennett, D.D.
Fetter lane chapel	— C. Morris.
Finchley	— George R. Birch.
Greenwich, London street	— William Reynolds.
Greenwich, Maize hill	— H. B. Jeula.
Greenwich road chapel	— William Chapman.
Hackney, Gloucester chapel	— B. Isaac.
Hackney, Old Gravel Pit	— J. Pye Smith, D.D.
Hackney, St Thomas's square	— H. F. Burder, D.D.
Hammersmith, Broadway chapel	— J. T. Cumming.
Higgate	— G. H. Orchard.
Hoddesdon	— W. Ellis.
Ilford	— James Woodard.
Islington, Barnsbury chapel	— Charles Gilbert. M.
Islington, Chadwell street	— William Owen.
Islington, Charlotte street	— Robert Eckett. M.
Islington, Gee street	— Mr. T. S. Atkins.
Islington, Pavement chapel	— Rev. J. Spong.
Islington Green chapel	— Jo'n J. Brown.
Kennington, Esler chapel	— J. Mirams.
Kingsland, Phillips street	— Clement Dukes, M.A.
Kingsland, Robinson's row	— Thomas Aveling.
Kingston	— William Collins.
Leather lane chapel, Holborn	— William Collins.
Lewisham	— Thomas Timpson.
Lewisham road chapel	— J. Russell.
Loughton	— S. Brawn.
Marlborough chapel, Old Kent road	— Henry Richard.
Maze Pond, Borough	— John Aldis.
Mill End, Hephzibah chapel	— J. B. Talbot.
Mill End, Latimer chapel	— S. Saunders.
Mill End, Salem chapel	— E. Flood Woodman.
Mill End, New Town, Church street	— William Tyler.
Mill hill, Hendon	— H. J. Crump.
Millard, Goodman's fields	— W. H. Black.
Mitcham	— Thomas Kennerley.
Northampton Tabernacle, Clerkenw.	— Elias Parry.
Norwood, Wesleyan chapel	— Mr. George Huggins.
Old street road, Willow walk	— J. Kingshot, jun.
Paddington, New Church street	— Rev. Jabez Burns.
Paddington, Praed street	— William Underwood.
Peckham, Hanover chapel	— John Curwen.
Plaistow	— William Wilsden.
Pounder's End	— Thomas R. Brown.
Poplar, Mill wall	— Joseph Sutcliffe, M.A.
Portland market, Salisbury street	— R. Ware.
Potters' Bar	— C. Stovel, or supply.
Prescot street chapel	— William Miall.
Providence chapel, Austen street,	— Ebenezer Halliday.
Shoreditch	— D. Whitaker.
Ratcliffe, Queen street chapel	— Thomas Kendall.
Red Cross street	— John Cox.
Roehampton	— Timothy Moore.
Shacklewell, Wellington place	— J. K. Foster.
Shadwell, Shakespeare's walk	— Gregory Hawson.
Sittingbourne	— David Thomas.
Staines	— John Jefferson.
Stockwell chapel	— William Ward.
Stoke Newington, Abney chapel	— James Sherman.
Stratford, Eton chapel	— John Woodwork.
Surrey chapel, Blackfriars road	— Joseph C. Harrison.
Tonbridge chapel, Somers' town	— B. Kluht.
Tottenham and Edmonton chapel	— Thomas G. Stamper.
Twickenham	— Owen Clarke.
Uxbridge	— James Hargreaves.
Vernon chapel, Vernon square	— Joseph J. Freeman.
Walham abbey	— R. G. Le Maire.
Walhamstead, Marsh gate	— Samuel Green.
Walworth, Horsley street chapel	— John Wood.
Walworth, Lion street chapel	— J. Bridgman, M.A.
Walworth, Sutherland chapel	— J. E. Richards.
Walworth, West street chapel	— George Pearce.
Wandsworth	— Edward Hull.
Ware	— George Jones.
Watford	— John S. Bright.
Woodford	
Woolwich, Salem chapel	

MAY MEETINGS.

MINISTERS and others visiting London may obtain SPECIMENS of the NEW and IMPROVED EDITIONS of THE HYMN-BOOK, on application at the publishers', WARD and Co., Paternoster row.

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FREE TRADE.

NATIONAL ANTI-CORN-LAW BAZAAR.—The Council of the League have determined to hold a BAZAAR,

in the THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT-GARDEN, on THURSDAY, the 8th of MAY, and the following days.

It has been undertaken by the Council in compliance with the wishes of a number of ladies of the highest respectability, who have deemed it the most appropriate method of expressing their sympathy with the objects of the League, and their approval of its proceedings; and who, in furtherance of their views, have formed a committee consisting of 1,000 ladies.

The BAZAAR will be OPENED for EXHIBITION on THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of MAY, and the

SALE OF ARTICLES will commence on MONDAY, the 12th.

The pit of the theatre will be boarded over, and the interior converted into one vast

GOTHIC HALL.

The saloon will be devoted to the exhibition of articles of taste and vertu, and specimens and models illustrative of the progress of the arts and sciences.

Many of the large manufacturing towns having intimated their intention of furnishing their stalls with articles of their staple manufacture, such contributions will not be removed at the period of sale, but will

REMAIN ON VIEW

until the close of the Bazaar.

Contributions may be forwarded, addressed to George Wilson, Esq., at the THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT-GARDEN, London, where all the requisite arrangements are made for their reception.

The Council are completing arrangements for placing

SPECIAL TRAINS

on all the principal lines of railway, to convey persons desirous of visiting the Bazaar to London at a reduced charge.

By order of the Council, GEORGE WILSON, Chairman.

London, Covent-garden Theatre, April 26, 1845.

NATIONAL ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE

FREE TRADE BAZAAR.

The Bazaar will be OPENED for EXHIBITION on THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of MAY.

The terms of admission will be as follows:—

	s. d.
Thursday, the 8th of May	10 6
Friday, 9th	5 0
Saturday, 10th	5 0
Monday, 12th	2 6
Each succeeding day	1 0

Covent-garden Theatre, April 26, 1845.

DISEASES OF THE CHEST, &c.

DR MELHUISE may be consulted by patients suffering from all functional and structural DISEASES of the HEART, LUNGS, STOMACH, and DIGESTIVE ORGANS, daily, at his house, 60, York road, Lambeth.

N.B. Dr M. continues giving advice gratuitously to the labouring classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, until eleven o'clock.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE for SILVER.

The material RIPPON and BURTON offer to the Public has, for the last ten years, been found equal to Silver, in appearance and sweetness, and superior to it in durability. Of the prices of Tea Sets, Waiters, Candlesticks, and all articles hitherto made in Silver, a detailed Catalogue, with Engravings, will be sent (gratis), post free.

	Fiddle Pattern.	Threaded Pattern.	Victoria Pattern.
Table Spoons and Forks, full size, per dozen	12s. 0d.	28s. 0d.	30s. 0d.
Dessert, ditto, ditto	10s. 0d.	21s. 0d.	25s. 0d.
Tea, ditto, ditto	5s. 0d.	11s. 0d.	12s. 0d.
Gravy, ditto	3s. 0d.	6s. 0d.	7s. 0d.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRONS.

The LARGEST ASSORTMENT of STOVES and FENDERS, as well as GENERAL IRONMONGERY, in the WORLD, is now on SALE at RIPPON and BURTON'S extensive Warehouses, 33, Oxford street, corner of Newman street (just removed from Wells street). Bright steel fenders, to four feet, from 30s. each; ditto, ditto, with ornate ornaments, from 60s.; rich bronzed scroll ditto, with steel bar, 10s. 6d.; iron fenders, three feet, 4s. 6d.; four feet, 6s.; ditto bronzed, and fitted with standards, three feet, 9s.; four feet, 11s.; wrought iron kitchen fenders, three feet, 4s. 6d.; four feet, 6s.; bright register stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, from 5 guineas; ditto, ditto, with ornate ornaments, from £9 10s.; black dining-room register stoves, two feet, 20s.; three feet, 30s.; bed-room register stoves, two feet, 16s.; three feet, 24s. The new economical Thermo stove, with fender and radiating hearthplate, from £8 5s.; fire irons for chambers, 1s. 9d. per set; handsome ditto, with cut heads, 6s. 6d.; newest pattern, with elegant bronzed heads, 11s. A variety of fire irons, with ornate and richly cut heads, at proportionate prices. Any article in furnishing ironmongery thirty per cent. under any other house, while the extent and variety of the stock is without any equal. The money returned for every article not approved of. Detailed catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. Established (in Wells street) 1820.

EASE in WALKING and COMFORT to the

FEET.—Wellington street, Strand, London.—HALL and Co., SOLE PATENTEES of the PANNUS CORIUM, or Leather Cloth Boots and Shoes for Ladies and Gentlemen.—These articles have borne the test and received the approbation of all who have worn them. Such as are troubled with Corns, Bunions, Gout, Chilblains, or tenderness of Feet from any other cause, will find them the softest and most comfortable ever invented—they never draw the feet or get hard, are very durable, and adapted for every climate; they resemble the finest leather, and are cleaned with common blacking.

The Patent India Rubber Goggles are light, durable, elastic, and waterproof; they thoroughly protect the feet from damp or cold.

Hall and Co's Portable Waterproof Dresses for Ladies and Gentlemen. This desirable article claims the attention of all who are exposed to the wet. Ladies' Cardinal Cloaks, with Hoods, 18s. Gentlemen's Dresses, comprising Cape, Overalls, and Hood, 21s. The whole can be carried with convenience in the pocket.

N.B.—Hall and Co. particularly invite attention to their Elastic Boots, which are much approved; they supersede lacing or buttoning: are drawn on in an instant, and are a great support to the ankle.

METCALFE'S NEW PATTERN TOOTH

BRUSH, and MYRNA SPONGES.—The Tooth Brush has the important advantage of searching thoroughly into the divisions of the teeth, and cleaning them in the most effectual and extraordinary manner, and is famous for the hairs not coming loose, &c. An improved Clothes Brush, that cleans in a third part of the usual time, and incapable of injuring the finest nap. Penetrating Hair Brushes, with the durable unbleached Russian Bristles, which do not soften like common hair. Flesh Brushes of improved graduated and powerful friction. Velvet Brushes, which act in the most surprising and successful manner. The genuine Myrna Sponge, with its preserved valuable properties of absorption, vitality, and durability, by means of direct importations, dispensing with all intermediate parties' profits and destructive bleaching, and securing the luxury of a genuine Myrna Sponge. Only at METCALFE'S sole Establishment, 130 B, Oxford street, one door from Holles street. Caution.—Beware of the words, "From Metcalfe's," adopted by some houses.

BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY.

SIR—The sample of Patent French Distilled Brandy you sent me, I have accurately examined; and having instituted a series of experiments on it and on the finest French Brandy, I have, in these comparative trials, been able to discover so little difference, either in their composition or effects, that they may be considered as identical; excepting that your Brandy is free from uncombined acid and astringent matter, which exists, more or less, in most of the Brandy imported from France.

I remain, sir, yours respectfully,

JOHN THOMAS COOPER.

To Mr Betts. Lecturer on Chemistry. BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY is prescribed by the highest medical authorities, in preference to French Brandy; and is exclusively used at Guy's, St George's, St Thomas's, the Westminster, and other Hospitals, and at the Manchester, Bristol, Brighton, and other Infirmarys. Quantities of not less than Two Gallons, supplied at the Distillery, in stone Jars, at 18s. per gallon, exclusive of the jar; and in capped bottles at 20s. per gallon, bottles and case included, and not returnable.

J. T. BETTS, JUN., & Co., 7, Smithfield bars, London.

ELECTRO-SILVERED DEANEAN PLATE.

—This beautiful manufacture possesses advantages which no other description of plated goods can offer. The union of the silver with its base being perfect, they constitute together but one body; and the silvery whiteness of the Deanean Plate renders the disappearance of the electric coating, after long time and constant use, scarcely observable. G. and J. Deane have just completed a very choice collection of Electro-Silvered Deanean Articles, comprising table and dessert spoons and forks, tea and gravy spoons, soup and sauce ladles, table and chamber candlesticks, sets of cruets and liqueurs, tea and coffee sets, and every other description of goods ordinarily manufactured in silver.—George and John Deane's warehouse, show rooms, and manufacturing factories, 46, King William street, London bridge.

ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL, Patronised

by the Queen, and the Royal Family of Great Britain, and the several Sovereigns and Courts of Europe.—This Elegant, Fragrant, and Transparent Oil, in its preservative, restorative, and beautifying qualities, is unequalled over the whole world. It preserves and reproduces the hair, even at a late period of life; prevents it from falling off or turning grey; restores grey hair to its original colour; frees it from scurf and dandruff, and renders it soft, silky, curly, and glossy.—Facts abundantly proved by innumerable testimonials, which are open for inspection at the Proprietors'. It preserves its virtues unimpaired by the change of climate, and is alike in use from the frigid to the torrid zone—from the assemblies of St Petersburg to those of Calcutta and the remote East. For Children it is especially recommended as forming the basis of a beautiful Head of Hair!!! Price 3s. 6d. 7s.—Family Bottles (equal to 4 small), 10s. 6d. and double that size, 21s.

CAUTION.—Each genuine bottle has the words "Rowland's Macassar Oil" engraved in two lines on the Wrapper; and on the back of the Wrapper nearly 1,500 times, containing 29,028 letters. Sold by the Proprietors, A. ROWLAND and SON, 20, flutton garden, London, and by Chemists and Perfumers.

All others are Fraudulent Counterfeits.

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